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FEB.
#14 $1.50
M•A•R•V•E•L
VISION™
THE MARVEL FAN MAGAZINE
CARLOS PACHECO AND ART THIBERT
THUNDERBOLTS #1
GENERATION X #25
X-MAN #25
SCOTT LOBDELL
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Stan Lee Presents

Marvel Vision #14

February 1997

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the boss

jim brennan
vito incorvaia
the boss's bosses

barry black, chris carroll
peter cooper, james desimone
c. brent ferguson
jeanne"tool"beier, michel lé
keith manzella, marc robinson
& mel sanchez
the boss's designers

steve behling, mark bernardo
karl bollers, barry dutter
glenn greenberg, matt idelson
pat jankiewicz, jim krueger
benny powell, tom rolston
peter sanderson, melanie traver
& polly watson
the boss's writers

bill rosemann
the boss's buddy

nancyann volpe
the boss's licensing queen

jason goodman
jason franzone
the boss's lifesavers

deb brust
the boss's manufacturing goddess

bob harras
who's the boss?

jim (ski) sokolowski
boss hog

shirrel rhoades
the boss's guru

scott m. sassa
ceo, marvel entertainment
david schreff
president, marvel entertainment

oops! as befitting a 13th issue in the month with halloween, last issue was home to the computer goblins. "assassinated" was missing an "s" in the daily bugle, the on sale date at the bottom of page 56 should have been at the top of page 57. finally some copy got chopped off on page 22. all in paragraph 2: line 2 ends with "in," line 4 ends with "appeared," line 5 ends with "this is," line 7 ends with "dead."

What's up at MARVEL?

"Heroes Reborn" is in full swing and kickin' butts all over. Jim and Rob recently made some quick stopovers in New York and the surrounding areas to sign copies of the FF, CAP and anything else that was shoved in front of them. Good thing Jim didn't see how much that check I handed him was for. Anyway, we all had a good time and I got to take some pictures with the guys. Unfortunately, my pictures with Jim came out really dark, just like he said they would. Man, what does this guy not know?

Back in the hallowed halls of Marvel things are getting kind of spooky. Halloween is just around the corner and next issue be sure to check out the pictures from Marvel's 1996 Halloween Party. My costume will be a tribute to the memory of Mark Gruenwald and it'll be a howler.

Well, now you probably want to know what's in this month's issue. A lot. 64 pages. Front and back. Really. Seriously folks, we've got a feature with the entire creative team of the wildly popular book **X-MEN**, a look at the double-sized extravaganzas planned for **GENERATION X #25** and **X-MAN #25**, interviews with Howard Mackie and legendary inker Tom Palmer and a look at what promises to be a big hit, **THE THUNDERBOLTS.**

That's what's up at MARVEL!

I'm done.

Tim Tuohy

Rob Liefeld and me at his NYC signing at Forbidden Planet.

Maximum Press' Matt Hawkins is a friendly guy.

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INSIGHTS

Before we begin this month's Q&A and comment session, I'd just like to print what some of you had to say about Marvel's dear departed friend Mark Gruenwald.

Dear Tim

I was extremely saddened to hear about the death of long-time Marvel writer and editor Mark Gruenwald. He has done so much in helping to develop this company over the last decade, and has had a profound impact on the industry.

As a long-time Marvel reader I felt I would be remiss if I didn't pass on my condolences to the Marvel family, and to the Gruenwald family. He was greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

On an entirely different note, I wanted to commend you on your magazine. It is interesting, informative and innovative, and I wish you all the best with it.

Make Mine Marvel,
George Hinds
ST963055@pip.cc.brandeis.edu

Dear INSIGHTS,

Saying that I was upset over the news of Mark Gruenwald's death is an understatement. As I write this letter, my feelings of shock have still not completely disappeared. Over the past decade, he wrote numerous stories that brought me countless hours of entertainment. His SQUADRON SUPREME mini-series still ranks as one of my all-time favorites. The comic book world has suffered a great loss with his passage.

My heart goes out to his family and friends. He certainly left us before his time.

Michael McIsaac
Address withheld upon request

Dear INSIGHTS,

I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mark Gruenwald upon his recent passing. I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Gruenwald in person but I did follow his long run as the writer of CAPTAIN AMERICA. In every story that he wrote, Mark expressed a great joy in writing the adventures of a hero who always remained his favorite character of all. I think that of all the issues Mark wrote on the life of Steve Rogers, "Streets of Poison" was his best. It certainly stands out in my mind as a story in which Steve's humanity was explored in ways that hadn't been written about before.

Also in the course of his stories, Mark gave Steve a new love interest in the form of Rachel Leighton (Diamondback), which only made the book more interesting.

I hope future CAPTAIN AMERICA stories live up to the legacy that Mark Gruenwald has given it. Amen.

Robert Moraes
10214 East Stoney Vista Dr.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Dear INSIGHTS,

On behalf of the cast of the Ms. Marvel show, we would like to offer our condolences and our sympathies to the family and friends of Mark Gruenwald.

Betsy Goodrich
dw@tronco.com

Thank you all for your kind words. Mark was an inspiration to a lot of people here at Marvel and obviously to you out there as well.

Now back to our regularly scheduled programming.

Dear INSIGHTS,

First of all I'd like to congratulate you on such a fine magazine. Second, I'd like to say that I think it's a great idea what you've done with the Heroes Reborn titles. My opinion is that if these books have quality writing, they will sell. I think that Rob Liefeld is one of the best artists in the industry. He should be Wizard's #1 pick. Jim Lee is one of my favorite artists. I think IRON MAN is going to sell because it has a great creative team.

Marvel should get better poster artists and more variety. I would also like to say that Marvel should keep Kevin Lau. He's a future star and you guys should find a way to keep him before somebody else grabs him.

On another note, you should do more ads for titles which aren't doing so well. It's about time these characters get the attention they deserve. The X-Titles are good, but they aren't the only good books at Marvel.

Eliezer Diaz
Calle 30 AB La Parque Ecuestre
Carolin, Puerto Rico 00987

Rob and Jim continue to keep the industry and fandom alike buzzing with their distinctive work on "Heroes Reborn" and this is just the start. It's just gonna get better.

Kevin Lau? Kevin Lau, you say? Well, say no more. VISION has snagged this hot new artist into doing a Time Slip. Look for his version of that sai-wielding ninja, Elektra in issue #15!

Dear INSIGHTS,

Ya know, I think I'm the only person in the world with nothing bad to say about Heroes Reborn. Just think, a whole new Marvel Universe with proven characters and outstanding creators! No Ultraverse or New Universe here.

The major dilemma I see here is the World Without Heroes. The X-Men, Spider-Man, and the Hulk will never be accepted as the world's protectors, and that's just what's needed. Who will fill the void left by the legends? Excalibur, as Moira MacTaggert seems to think? X-Factor!? No, the world needs Avengers, new Avengers. I recall it worked rather well for another Marvel team in 1975.

I propose the new team consist of Iron Fist, Nova, Namorita, Quasar, Dr. Strange, Vindicator, Dazzler, and lastly, the newly reformed Magneto. Think of the power. Think of the glory. Think of the story possibilities. This could be the best comic Marvel puts out, and it wouldn't even need Wolverine. Mark Waid could write it, and Ian Churchill could pencil it, and you'd have a bigger hit than GENERATION X.

Anyway, about Marvel VISION. What can I say, it rocks! But how about old MARVEL AGE features like the top ten list, or Marvel trivia quiz. Am I the only one who misses Fred Hembeck?

How about featuring new ToyBiz lines? These are just suggestions. I have no complaints about VISION. You guys are great!

CPL William Lexner USMC
USS Nassau
Somewhere in the Mediterranean

A new super team to replace those heroes that sacrificed themselves during the dreaded Onslaught is exactly what you're gonna get. Okay, it may not be the incarnation that you were thinking but that's just what is going to happen come February. The THUNDERBOLTS will be making their debuts in an issue of the HULK and MARVEL UNIVERSE before they star in their own monthly title. Check out page 22 for more info on this team you just have to see.

Dear INSIGHTS,

I love your magazine! I have collected Marvel Comics for about four years now. Mostly I collect X-MEN and SPIDER-MAN titles and a

few of the Marvel Heroes titles. I am enthusiastic about the upcoming DEADPOOL monthly. The "merc with the mouth" has always been a favorite of mine. And thanks to your coverage I heard it here first.

I really appreciate the OVERPOWER CHECKLIST. I hope you continue to print checklists for further expansion sets. I would like to point out, however, that you seemed to have left out the Hero Cards for both Hobgoblin and Jean Grey.

I think it would be worthwhile to pay an additional twenty-five cents for Marvel stuff packed into VISION. I for one, would be willing to pay as much as needed.

Overall, I feel you guys have a great product in the making here and I only see it getting better.

Brian Kovich
568 Spring Rd.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Sorry about those card omissions. Boy, you guys are tough. The jury is still out on whether raising VISION's price to include all those freebies is in the near future. Some of you want it; some don't. This is your magazine as much as Marvel's. You've got to write in to be heard.

Dear INSIGHTS,

The magazine you are producing is good, solid reading— a nice addition that mixes the historical, the current and the future of Marvel Comics. I especially enjoy "Time Slip." Please don't ruin the magazine by adding a bunch of commercialized junk, thereby inflating the price.

Roan T
(Ron Szyjkowski)
From the Internet

See what I mean.

Dear INSIGHTS,

Marvel is my favorite company. I read all the Spider-Man books, GHOST RIDER, VENOM, PRIME, and ULTRAFORCE. I've just recently got really peeved though. I was reading GREEN GOBLIN #12. During that issue there was a scene at the Daily Bugle where people were getting phone calls and the TV was talking about Daredevil fighting a Sentinel in Hell's Kitchen and the New Warriors were fighting atop the Brooklyn Bridge with the aid of Darkhawk and the Steel Spider. Why didn't we ever see these guys during the Onslaught? How's about a couple of one-shots of 4 short series called Onslaught: Heroes Revealed. It could feature the participation of the New Warriors, Steel Spider, Cloak & Dagger, Force Works, Psionex, Guardians of the Galaxy, Cardiac, The Wild Pack and others who fought during Onslaught.

Jeremy Snyder
10125 Trappers Ridge
Converse, TX 78109

Not enough heroes for you the first time out, huh? There are no plans right now for an "Untold Tales of The Onslaught" type book. But keep looking in the books that are still taking place in the "regular" Marvel Universe. There are always references to the battle and maybe you'll see the heroes that you want in a flashback.

Dear INSIGHTS,

First off, let me start by saying that I love this magazine. The upcoming comics guide in the back is well worth the $1.50 alone. Now I no longer have to wait until right before the month to find out what's going to be happening in my favorite titles, and I can also see what kinds of specials are going to be out that month.

Now I've been a Marvel fan for a long time. I've been collecting absolutely everything with an X on it for over five years straight, and I have loved every page turning second of it. Several times in the past I've tried to start collecting various Marvel titles, but it seemed like every time I did, the same thing would happen—Spider-Man was revealed to be a clone, Mr. Fantastic and Doom died and the FF disbanded, Matt Murdock was dead, Captain America and Iron Man bored me to death.

However, in the past six months or so, an amazing thing happened: the stories started becoming good again. Waid and Garney revitalized Cap, they brought in a new, younger Iron Man, they brought back the fun-loving DD with the cooler red costume, the FF became a team once again, and you've finally decided to clear up that whole clone thing once and for all.

Marvel's books have finally become readable again. And let me tell you, it certainly shows. I went from buying two Heroes books a month to seven, and I plan on picking up the four regular Spider-Man books once you get the guy in the right suit. DAREDEVIL is definitely reaching great heights, and I'm even looking forward to the Heroes Reborn project. Truly, Marvel is once again living up to the name The House of Ideas, and I couldn't be happier. Everyone involved in this tremendous improvement of Marvel's classic titles should be given a huge round of applause—you deserve it!

However, this letter is not full of compliments. As I have said, I'm a diehard X-Men fan. I buy all the regular titles and 95% of the specials, limited series, one-shots, that come out. Which is where my complaint comes in. There are too many of these specials. I don't mind one limited series a month, and maybe a one-shot or special every now and again, but what you guys have been doing is absolutely ridiculous. For example, in the VISION I just bought [#11], it has a MAVERICK one-shot, the MYSTIQUE AND SABRETOOTH limited series, a TEAM X/TEAM 7 one-shot, and the X. S. E. limited series just for the first week alone! Plus, there are six more of these added titles scheduled for the rest of November. It's too much! I beg you...slow down. For all our sakes.

Bryan Anderton
110 Fawn Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

We are slowing down on that front, Bryan. What you and we experienced was the year-end crush. Marvel begins each year with a publishing plan that is usually well spread out, but due to the usual deadline violations and other extenuating circumstances the "crush" was inevitable.

But look out in '97. Heroes Reborn seems to have been a shot in the proverbial arm and ideas are flying all over Marvel. Stay with VISION for updates on these exciting new projects.

Dear INSIGHTS,

I'm a big fan of this magazine and the whole Marvel company. I'm from Germany, so sorry for my bad English. My favorite Marvel Comics are SPIDER-MAN, VENOM, WOLVERINE.

I've heard that Marvel produced a new SPIDER-MAN movie, but they ran out of money. Is this the truth? And what is happening now with this movie? Will it ever be finished? It would be a great idea to have a VENOM movie. Why does Marvel produce only low budget movies? PUNISHER and SPIDER-MAN (The TV series.—Tim) could have been really cool, but Marvel always has third class movies. Perhaps far from now there will be a great action movie with computer animated scenes.

Stefan Hager
7G22U Umkirch
Germany

Marvel's movie and TV projects are in high gear, let me tell you. Beginning in issue #15 Andy Mangels will be bringing all of his insider information to the pages of VISION. First up will be a first season episode guide to the INCREDIBLE HULK animated

series, followed by a report on the progress of the upcoming BLADE movie starring Wesley Snipes.

Dear INSIGHTS,

Onslaught came and Onslaught saw and Onslaught conquered, taking along the lives of Earth's Mightiest Heroes, the Avengers, and the legendary Fantastic Four among others.

How my heart aches. Earth's first line of defense against cosmic threats is down. But...Hey, wait a minute. What happened to Black Widow, US Agent, Century, Masque, Spider-Woman, Hercules, Living Lighting, Fisher Todd, Moonraker, Deathcry, Captain Marvel II, Tigra, War Machine, Sersi, Black Knight, Quicksilver, Jarvis, the New Warriors and Alpha Flight? I believe we need a complete list of the M. I. A. super heroes. These characters might not be as famous as the core Marvel characters fallen during Onslaught, but I think this is the perfect time to make them Marvel legends. They should be more than able to keep the Avengers' torch alive.

So, I dare you to create a second Avengers book. The Avengers who survived and keep the flame burning in this side of the Marvel Universe. The Avengers have paid the greatest price to protect people. It would be a shame for all the survivors to give up on the concept now. The surviving Avengers deserve a second chance; ask the readers about this.

I was so sure of the chance of the second coming of the Avengers that I propose Quicksilver as the one to gather and convince the surviving heroes to join the Avengers again. He has the heart and the motivation to do it. He lost his wife and sister to Onslaught. He knows what a threat super-villains pose to humanity. But do not take it from me; ask the readers. May I hear the battle cry once more, "AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!"

Daniel Lozada
P. O. Box 5684
Caguas, PR 00726

The battle damage is still being tallied so don't expect a "complete" list for a while. They might be here, they might not. The scope of the Onslaught battle was so great that I'm sure some heroes sacrificed themselves while we, the readers, were watching another scene unfold.

Due to the contractual nature of Heroes Reborn there can't be another team called the "Avengers," but, fear not young Daniel. You've got the THUNDERBOLTS.

[C'mon Harras, you gotta admit, no one and I mean no one saw that plug coming. It was subtle, stylish, eloquent...]

[Shut up, or I'll throw this here heavy dictionary atcha!]

[Spoil-sport.]

In issue #11, I called upon all you loyal followers of the Tim Tuohy blunder-thon to send in your reasons as to why the Spider-Man article in issue #10 didn't make it to the credits page. Well, loyal fans, here is your winner and recipient of a * fabulous Marvel No-Prize.

I heard that, after reading this letter, Bob Harras has decided to let our winner write all of the "X" books.

[TUOHY]
Heh. Got him.

Dear INSIGHTS,

It was a long time ago, but I remember as if it were yesterday. there it was, bold as day in the classified section of the Daily Bugle- "Puppies, free to a good, patient home". My apartment was just big enough to accommodate myself and a dog, so I had to have one. I took the subway and headed towards Empire University's molecular biology department.

A Dr. Miles Warren let me in. He seemed the type who didn't get close to many people, and I felt a little rushed as he ushered me into what can best be described as an anteroom to the lab. The light within was poor, but I could make out the silhouettes of beakers, Bunsen burners and a large cooler. As I was bending down to play with the puppies, now at my feet, Dr. Warren offered me a Coke. As he opened the cooler, I rose up, not looking inside at the Cokes he was reaching for, but at something labeled, DNA SAMPLES. The samples labeled "P. Parker—student" and "G. Stacy—student" looked like blood, but another labeled "Lockjaw" looked like a saliva sample.

There were several puppies to choose from. All of them identical in detail with strange forks on their foreheads. One was especially taken with me so it was him I took home. He was a friendly dog who was constantly licking his paws, so I named him Lickpaw. Lickpaw grew at a steady rate for a year and after another 6 months it occurred to me that he wasn't going to stop growing anytime soon. He eventually got so big that I could no longer walk him in public. Soon, he wouldn't even fit through my apartment door. He was very well behaved, highly intelligent, and seemed to understand everything I said to him—though he had a stubborn manner.

Then one hot day, as I changed the papers on the floor in his room, I noticed an ad for an airline trip to Florida. "Wish I was there." I muttered aloud. Just then, Lickpaw's tuning fork began to glow and suddenly I was on a beach in Florida. Apparently, Lickpaw had teleported us there. Fortunately, logic ensued and I managed to get us home as a crowd formed by reminding Lickpaw it was dinner time back in the Big Apple.

We've since settled in California. One day we were perusing an old dusty bookstore, and shoved way in the back of the store's basement was a box labeled "Marvel Comics". We didn't know what a comic book was, and neither did the shop's proprietor. Perhaps it was a form of communicative sequential hieroglyphics or something. Upon reading them however, I realized what they meant to us and their similarities to our lives. I read a comic book called THE FANTASTIC FOUR and saw another giant dog with a tuning fork on his head named Lockjaw. I read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and learned that the man I got Lickpaw from was the alter ego of a villain named the Jackal, who was also a pioneer in the field of genetics cloning. It all made sense. Lickpaw must be a clone generated from a dollop of this Lockjaw's drool. I bought the entire box and, ducking into an alley, had Lickpaw 'port us home.

I then spent the next several days reading about a world in which we seemed to belong, but here we were trapped in a world we never made. Eventually it occurred to me that if we were in the world I'd been reading about, its mysteries would be lost on us since these comic books revealed all of its secrets and possibly the secrets of our future if we weren't careful. I discovered that way in the back of the box was a copy of something called Marvel VISION. Upon reading it, I learned that it held answers to the future of what I had come to know as the Marvel Universe as well as INSIGHTS into its creators.

Meanwhile, Lickpaw was mad at me. It seems I had offended him with my views on the so-called Spider-Clone, but eventually he fell under my persuasion and began to question his own pro-clone views. After a time we both agreed that we wanted to see the clone storyline resolved, and noticing the New York address in Marvel VISION to be the same as the one in Marvel Comics, I put two and two together and realized that by surreptitiously visiting the address, maybe we could find out even more about the Spider-Clone's future.

There was only one thing to do. Have Lickpaw use his

teleporting ability to find anything in the Marvel VISION office regarding the Spider-Clone. It took but a moment for him to 'port in and snap up something from Tim Tuohy's out-basket. Lickpaw arrived home with copy in jaws of something with the heading "Contents Page" and a note attached saying, "In finalized copy add Spidey article to contents page". Apparently another issue of Marvel VISION was in the making and unfortunately the Spidey article would be missing from the contents page, now unreturnable due to damage done by Lickpaw's drool and teeth.

This is my reason for writing: to apologize and to say that it will not happen again. We now realize that we should remain observers of the Marvel Universe and have since searched bookstores the world over for more chronicles of its inhabitants' adventures.

No Prize Winner
Mark Bittmann
6655 Palm Ave. #112
Riverside, CA 92506

Dear INSIGHTS,

I am writing this letter, not so much for fun, but as a serious critique of Marvel VISION. The letters page and table of contents are my first subject. The table of contents is awesome. It's cool the way you change it every issue. Keep it up. The letters page is the best around. I think it answers more letters than any of the other comic magazines available. I also like how you list everyone's name who wrote in. I'm glad you removed those backgrounds and envelope pictures. They were most annoying.

The first interview of each VISION is always the best. Andy Kubert's interview was awesome. Adam and he are doing a comics review in future issues? COOL! The Daily Bugle is a nice touch, but I noticed a similar article to last issue's, the one about heroes dying.

I like the clever little articles you write about upcoming comics and cards. Creative, but nothing less should be expected from the world famous House of Ideas. Marvel Stuff is an excellent addition, because I finally get to see the items. Marvel Universe and those nifty snowboards are pretty darn cool looking. Time Slip kicks butt! That Red Skull/Captain America idea was, I think, the best yet. As I have said in previous letters, I love the way you are evolving these Time Slips into a "What If?" scenario.

The interviews with creators and the Marvel Chronicles are pure genius. How about one with Scott Lobdell? Marvel's Silliest Moments are a tickle. Then comes the Beast Files, one of, if not the best department in VISION and any other comic magazine. Now to the usually splendid Comic Guide.

Heroes, Spider-Man, X-Men, Star Trek/Media, Licensed, and Ship Shape are probably the best part of the magazine overall.

I have to thank the creative forces of Marvel for having the characters in the Marvel Universe interact with each other. Before it was only an occasional visit by someone from a different title unless it was a limited series or a quick once-a-year story arc. But ever since the Onslaught storyline and the upcoming World Without Heroes, we finally get to see more guest stars in consecutive different story arcs for the whole year. It was the greatest artistic joy for me to see Adam and Andy Kubert draw the entire Marvel Universe. Splendid stuff.

Question time:

1) What happened to Microchip after he quit? And what ever happened to Betty Brant?

2) Will VISION, once it finally gets a legion of readers it deserves, put out posters or cards? Sure, the AOL disk was cool, but I already have AOL. The box it came in was kind of cool, though. I won't be upset if it doesn't happen soon. After all, Wizard freebies are paid for by the characters' owners.

3) What issue of X-MEN has Andy Kubert's final penciling of the series?

4) Andy Kubert will be penciling KA-ZAR? I heard Mark Waid will be scripting? Is this true? I might just have to get this new comic book. Also, wasn't there an old KA-ZAR comic put out a while ago?

5) Why did you cancel the fabulous comic GREEN GOBLIN? It was one of the best.

6) What will happen to Ben Reilly's supporting cast once Ben is no longer Spider-Man? What will happen to him? Will he even survive? And if he doesn't, what will happen to his friends?

7) Is the Kubert Time Slip poster that will be in the next issue (#12) a permanent feature or is it just to celebrate the year anniversary? Oh yeah, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Since issue #1, VISION has been great. The best part is you improve with each issue. By #100 it will be so cool, you'll have to put it in a museum. By the way, tell Steve Skroce I loved that Spider-Man snowboard. If all his AMAZING SPIDER-MAN artwork is like that, then I'll be one happy camper.

Christopher Vanette
361 Rosemont Drive
State College, PA 16801

Thanks for the letter, Christopher. To answer one of your questions posed in the body of your letter, we had an interview with Scott Lobdell in issue #3 and we talk to him again this month.

Now on to your others:

1) Microchip is dead and Betty still works at the Bugle.

2) See the answer to Brian Kovich's letter.

3) #61.

4) Yes, it is true. Eagle-eyed VISION readers found the mention of this titanic creator pairing in issue #11. KA-ZAR is scheduled for release in March. There have been three runs of books featuring Ka-Zar in the title role: 1970-1971, 1974-1977 and 1981-1984.

5) Low sales.

6) I don't want to give anything away.

7) The Kubert Time Slip poster was not in issue #12 due to production concerns about quality and printing so it will be rescheduled as soon as those glitches are resolved. I don't see it becoming a permanent feature. Sorry.

Thanks for the Letters:
Phil White, Hennie van der Zouw, Don Lett, Danny Jansun, Javier Velazquez, Brian LeFlem, J. D. Jeyaram, Paolo Costa, James Dysart, Brian Roma, Carlos Tanselo, Adam Moreau, Vincent Echert, Chris Arshem, Justin Perez, Mike Kalibabky, Bob Schreib Jr., Lasaun Wiggins, Chuck Davis, Shayne Holdren, Aristide Bergarasco, Ari Berenstein, Nick & Jeremy Fama
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Whew!

Write to Marvel VISION Insights
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York NY 10016.
Or E-Mail to: TIMM 2E@ aol.com
Addresses will be withheld at the request of writer.

Thanks to talent, tenacity and the miracle of Federal Express, Carlos Pacheco and Art Thibert get together every month to produce some of the most awesome art ever seen between the covers of X-MEN! Now, Carlos and Art put pencil and brush aside, and spend some quality time yakking about hotels, clothes, and what they'd like to see in Scott Lobdell's next plot! Read on, true believer, and you'll discover how and when these red-hot artists came to be.......

X-RATED

Carlos Pacheco, Penciler

CARLOS, HOW DID YOU END UP DRAWING X-MEN? WAS IT SOMETHING YOU'D ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, OR WAS IT JUST A HAPPY ACCIDENT?

Well, I can say it was a happy accident I always wanted to happen! I've always loved the X-Men, but since they became a spectacular success, I stopped thinking of them as a place to go. I never thought anyone would consider me, not even for a fill-in issue, so you can imagine how surprised and happy I was when Bob Harras phoned and offered me the book! Anyway, if you want me to die of happiness, let me draw anAvengers/ X-Men crossover. I'm not joking!

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES THE X-MEN SO COOL?

The books are a fantastic mixture between magical characters and the work that Chris Claremont and the people who followed in his tracks laid down. When this happens, when the mixture works, everything works.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'VE BROUGHT TO THE X-MEN THAT NO OTHER ARTIST HAS?

Shang-Chi and a very strong and weird southern Spanish accent.

ARE THERE ANY OLD ISSUES YOU WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO REDRAW?

When I was a kid, I was in love with (Roy) Thomas and (Neal) Adams's X-Men, those stories are still among my favorite ones. I would never dare to redo a line of those books, but...there was an issue among them that looked like Neal Adams (in Spain, the credits were printed some years later) but was done by another artist (Don Heck, I think), and although it was good enough to be easily confused with Adams' stuff, I would really like to do something with that material. After all, we met Sunfire there. Hey Scott (Lobdell). Are you there? Are you listening to me? SUNFIRRRE!!!!!!!!

DO YOU HAVE FAVORITE CHARACTERS OR FAVORITE PLACES THAT YOU LIKE TO DRAW?

I love NY! This is the perfect place for super heroes, the perfect background for action, and adds the perfect exotic feeling for the people who read these stories all around the world. After all, just a few of them live in New York City. But watch your back, Big Apple — Tokyo and Hong Kong can take your place!

As for characters, Hawkeye and Captain America are at the very top of the list. And...well, after all, they are the same character — just a generation separates them — but right now Quicksilver and Magneto...Joseph, I mean!...are my favorite characters in what remains of the Marvel Universe. Isn't it Freudian?

IS THERE A DIRECTION THAT YOU PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BOOK GO IN?

The mutants are characters that live in the Marvel Universe, and we shouldn't forget this. I'm not talking about an X-MEN TEAM-UP, but this is a very small world. Do you remember Aunt May as one of the bystanders watching the Silver Surfer/Terrax/Doctor Doom clash? Peter Parker taking pictures of Iron Fist after his fight with the Golden Tiger Gang? The more recent moments of Scott Summers at the Gem Theater and the J.J. Jameson appearance in the X-MEN pages? These are just minor incidents, but the whole idea is that the reader can expect the unexpected just because the number of players is increased tenfold. Once you read a megapocalypticarmaggedonical saga, you cannot be surprised with the same thing each month. The 35 years of the Marvel Universe are bigger than any four-month crossover.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO WORK? FOR EXAMPLE, DO YOU LIKE TO DO THE BACKGROUNDS FIRST, OR USE PHOTO REFERENCE FOR CERTAIN THINGS?

The human body is an essential part of the super hero book, so that is what deserves, from my point of view, the most attention. But when it is necessary to make the location very clear, I am careful to use reference.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO DRAW A PAGE?

Officially, a day.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE STUCK?

I do a page with bad ideas!

CAN YOU WORK ONLY WHEN THE TV IS ON?

Oh boy, I thought I was the only one who had the TV on while working! It's sort of my umbilical cord to the rest of the world. Mad About You is still my all-time favorite TV show. (Isn't Helen Hunt lovely?) (Yes she is — Tim)

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER YOUR FABULOUS TALENT? DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL FOR IT?

Oh no. I never received a formal art training. I learned from the people I admired: Adams, Buscema, Kane, Golden, Perez, Lee. Today I keep my eyes on those manga-influenced guys– Jeff Matsuda, Humberto Ramos, Martin Egeland, Mike Wieringo– and I

like Joe Madureira's art very much. He's changing and improving the look of super heroes today like Jack Kirby and Neal Adams did. It's true that these styles are quite different from mine, but I understand that this is a new step in the evolution of the field.

ARE COMICS THE BIG DEAL IN SPAIN THAT THEY ARE IN THE US.? HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT THERE?

Hey, Spain is a colonial territory of the Great American Empire (fanfare here...)! We have McDonalds, Toys R Us, Madonna's book, "Independence Day," Jim Carrey movies... Fortunately, we receive some good comic stuff too!

Seriously, the situation is Spain is very similar to that in America, although super heroes have in manga a serious competitor. Madureira, Adam and Andy Kubert, Lee, Shirow, Hagiwara, Asamiya and Kishiro have become the substitutes for Moebius, Maroto, Pratt, Carlos Gimenez, Bilal, Miller and Byrne. New names for a new generation.

WE AT MARVEL GET TO SEE YOU MAYBE TWICE A YEAR! WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO BEST WHEN YOU ARE VISITING NEW YORK?

Pushing the hotel's fire alarm is Carlos Pacheco's favorite thing to do in New York. Well, I'm kidding, but it was really fun while it lasted! Now that I'm a proud and responsible father, I just swipe the towels and ashtrays when nobody's looking.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL?

Yeah, apart from New York I've been to Washington, Baltimore (You'll never believe I was at Maryland University a few years ago giving a lecture on flamenco music!), Philadelphia...and I've been to the San Diego Convention Center hotel!

CARLOS, YOU ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT THE BEST-DRESSED MAN IN COMICS TODAY. TO WHOM DO YOU OWE YOUR IMPECCABLE TASTE?

To Cary Grant, Bugs Bunny, and Howard Chaykin's characters!

Concierges beware: according to our calculations, Carlos Pacheco will be visiting New York again in the spring.

Art Thibert, Inker

CAN WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS, ART?

Are you like the Enquirer?

UM, YEAH. EXCEPT WE DON'T HAVE A "WHAT PEOPLE ARE WEARING" SECTION.

But I look good in a tux!

NO ONE DOUBTS IT FOR A SECOND, ART. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INKING THE X-MEN?

I just finished my fourth issue, and I'm starting on my fifth. But three years ago I was inking the X-MEN over Jim Lee and Whilce Portacio, and I was working for the X-office for about three years. So I've got a little bit of history there!

WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE IN-BETWEENS?

Image. I also did a few things for your sister company, Malibu, but now I'm back!

BACK IN THE SADDLE?

Back on a monthly book! Carlos is great! I'm also inking X-FACTOR too—let's not forget about poor little Jeff (Matsuda)!

GOOD GRAVY NO! IS THERE ANY SPECIAL WAY YOU INK OVER THESE GUYS, ANY SPECIAL STUFF YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO?

With Carlos he leaves his stuff a little open to interpretation. So it's all there, but it's a lot of fun going in there and kind of making things up! I'm trying to get a different look on him than anyone else who's ever inked him before, so I'm kind of trying to push it there. Jeff and I are doing the same thing, but he has a clearer idea of what he wants. Also, it's a little harder to brainstorm with Carlos, you know...the time difference and my California accent vesus his weird southern spanish one. I've woken him up, though in the middle of the night, and he's got his morning voice on. (Groans) "Thees ees Carlos Pacheco! Uuuuuuhhhhhh!"

WHOM HAVE YOU MOST ENJOYED INKING OVER IN THE PAST?

I really, really enjoyed inking Jim Lee way back when. That was a blast. I got to ink him a little bit on that "Fire From Heaven" crossover Wildstorm put out recently, and that was neat.

DO YOU LIKE THE STUFF HE'S DOING FOR MARVEL NOW?

Oh yeah. The FF stuff is great. It's like the Marvel of old! That's what I'm hoping the X-MEN will be like!

SO TELL ME ABOUT THIS STUDIO YOU HAVE.

Well, we have several really good inkers. We have Jaime Mendoza who's doing 2099 WORLD OF TOMORROW. And then we have Alan Martinez, who's doing some of our DC work now, which we won't talk about (laughs), and he's assisting on 2099. Plus we've got a slew of other newcomers!

WHAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR STUDIO?

Hack Shack Studios Inc.!

WHEN DID YOU SET THIS UP?

I've always had it. I've had it since the old days when we were inking X-MEN, and the original Hack Shack Studios was Trevor Scott, Danny Miki and myself. Danny now inks SPAWN, and Trevor Scott works for Image. He did DEATHBLOW. This is like the second wave — Hack Shack Volume 2!

DO YOU OPERATE OUT OF YOUR HOUSE?

No, we have a studio in Ashley (California) in conjunction with another studio, which is Kaboom! Studios, which is Jeff Matsuda and Chap Yaep and (colorist) Chris Lightener. It's kinda like a double studio.

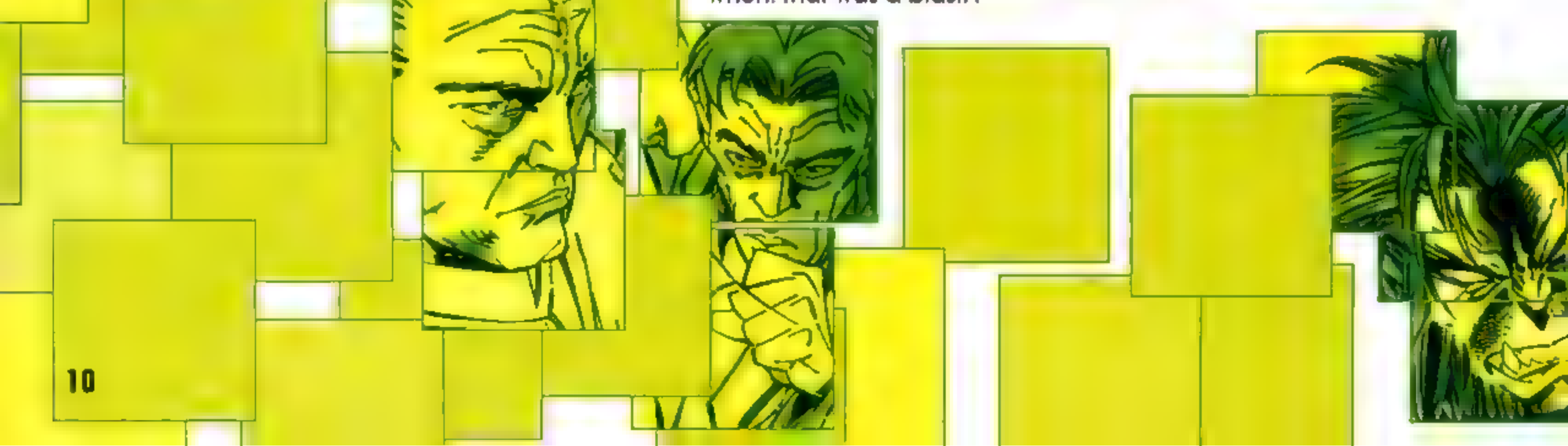
SO WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF COFFEE YOU JUST GO HIT THEM UP FOR THE GROUNDS?

Yeah, borrow sugar and eggs... Actually, I'm over there more than I'm at home, and it's turning into that!

WHEN YOU'RE WORKING, DO YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE PLOT TO HELP YOU FIGURE OUT THE ACTION?

Actually, I try not to bother the editors too much with that. It's kind of fun, when the pages come in, to speculate on what the story is! Kind of make up our own little stories!

NOW THAT THE BOOKS ARE BEING SCANNED IN-HOUSE, HOW DOES THAT AFFECT YOU?



I've been back at Marvel for almost a year now, and the early scanning just kind of broke my heart month after month. But now they're doing that higher resolution scan, and the production value is a lot better. Before, the stuff was either digitizing or breaking up altogether, and my philosophy is if a Xerox copy looks better than the finished product, something's wrong! So Jaime and I started readjusting our line weights, and even then the computer kind of eroded the thick lines, as if someone had thrown acid on it. So you never got a clean, crisp look, and I always thought that was essential to the power of anything.

BUT THINGS ARE BETTER NOW?
I was real happy with X-FACTOR #129. That was just gorgeous.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR KIND OF STYLE YOU LOOK FOR IN A PENCILER?
Anything that inspires me and that I feel I can contribute something to. I just don't like anything that doesn't spark my imagination or my creative juices. I look at Carlos' stuff, and I just think of all the different line weights and textures and hatching that I can do! Matsuda does the same thing for me, so I'm really working with two guys whom I wouldn't mind inking for a long time! Also, they like me to experiment a little bit, and they're not too uptight about it. Also, Carlos, he'll call me and he'll say, "Art, you did a really good job," and that'll make me feel good. I'll think, "All right, I'm on track here!" I mean, if you can please the penciler, you're doing good!

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES THE X-MEN COOL?
The thing I like the most about the book is that it really seems to have this sense of history, and when you come on the book, you really get this sense of history with the characters. They've been around a long time, and they're very, very popular, and the characters seem very real to me and I like that. Although I wish Nightcrawler and Colossus would get back on the actual X-Men team.

DID YOU GO TO ART SCHOOL?
Actually, I got out early from my folks, so I had to be the practical guy. Mostly I just went to junior college courses and night school. I'm basically self-trained. I'd come home and draw...I've been doing it since I was a little kid, so it wasn't that big a deal...it just kind of flowed!

SO DO YOU PENCIL IN YOUR FREE TIME?
I just did the new 1996 Marvel Tryout Book. I penciled and inked the cover, and I inked the interior pages over Andy Kubert. So I can't wait to see what that looks like, because the art is original size, 11x17. So I can't wait to see it that big, all colored up on that cardboard stock cover. I hope it's the cardboard stock cover like the old one was.

YEAH, WE'RE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THAT HERE
The original one, I did that and sent it in. The pencils and the inks!

WHAT HAPPENED?
Nothing!

LITERALLY, FLAT NOTHING?
I think I got your medium rejection letter, something like, "Keep up the good work, true believer!"

DID YOU EVER TRY DRAWING TIPPY?
You know what? I did when I was really, really little. I got kind crazy about it, and my dad said, "You know what? They scrutinize every little line, Art. It's a pipe dream —let it go!" I'm going, "No, no!" My dad was like,"They're gonna scrutinize every stroke, so it's gotta be exact." So I'm scrutinizing the drawing, "Okay, I gotta use the side of the pencil here..." It wasn't good enough that I just draw Tippy, I had to render it and make the same pencil strokes as the guy (who initially drew it)! I got a hundred Tippy drawings somewhere, stored away in my mom's closet!

YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA, YES?
Yes.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOUR STATE WILL ONE DAY FALL INTO THE SEA?
Not my state!

NOT YOUR SECTION OF THE STATE?
No, I live in the hilly areas!

OH, SO YOU JUST HAVE MUD SLIDES?
Oh god! When we first moved into our house, there were plastic hefty bags all over the hill over here. I ask around, "What's up?" "Oh, nothing to worry about, nothing to worry about." About a month later, about twelve o'clock the police come to our door and say, "We're gonna have to ask you to move out of the house because we can't guarantee your safety on the hill." My wife and I are like, "Oh wow!" So we get our cat, and we're trying to find a place that'll let us bring the kitty. So we finally find a place, a sleazy Motel 9 or something. It was really bad. It had armed guards and the guy that was working the front desk had one of those bulletproof glass things. So we go in and there's two beds and one of them is broken, one of the legs is broken off. So we're sitting on the other bed looking at the wall, and we're not too comfortable at this point, and we look over at the wall and there's all these nick marks, and I think, "What would make those nick marks?" And I go over and look and I realize, "Oh my god, somebody sat in this bed and was throwing a knife at the wall!" There were like fifty nick marks in the wall!

SO HOW LONG DID YOU HAVE TO STAY THERE?
That's when I was penciling CABLE, and we just spent one night there, and that's when I thought, "Oh god, I'd rather be in the house when the mud comes down!" When we came back in the morning there were all these pink fluorescent quarantine signs on the house. We were like, "We just bought this!" All my savings! So we fought with the city and said, "Hey, who better to monitor that hill than us — we're here 24 hours a day!" And they bought it!

SO NOTHING HAPPENED?
They boarded up the back of the house and by the end of the rainy season our whole backyard looked like a beach! I wanted to set up a lawn chair and umbrella!

When not wallowing in mud, Art Thibert can be found eagerly awaiting the arrival of his new daughter, Amanda Elizabeth Thibert.
—Polly Watson

Weather
Variable cloudiness and much colder. High only near 30. Tonight mostly cloudy, with a chance of light snow, low 20's.

DAILY BUGLE®

IN THIS ISSUE
X-clusive interview with Scott Lobdell, the man behind the X-Men.

December 10, 1996 | New York's Finest Daily Newspaper | Fifty Cents

FEDERAL AGENTS SEIZE FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA

Growing concern among citizens

Phil Roberts -UPI

In the wake of the death of the world's greatest heroes, the United States government has moved to PREVENT their legacy from falling into the wrong hands.

This week, members of S.H.I.E.L.D., the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Division took over Four Freedoms Plaza, the headquarters of the late Fantastic Four. Fearful that super-powered or even street-level criminals might apprehend Reed Richards' vast equipment for unlawful purposes, S.H.I.E.L.D. agents quickly moved to catalogue and store Dr. Richards' advanced technology. It is rumored (though uncon-firmed) that the agents arrived to find the building empty, stripped of every last piece of equipment. S.H.I.E.L.D. denies the allegations, but there is a growing con-cern among many citizens that the Fantastic Four's equipment may have already fallen into the wrong hands, adding an air of unease to an already tense populace.

Meanwhile, in a possibly related incident, a coup was carried out in Wakanda, resulting in a new goverment for the tiny African nation. Pressure had been building within the political system since the recent and unexplained disappearance of that country's leader, the Black Panther. Details are limited, but a spokesperson for the Justice Department believes this new wave of violence in the uneasy Wakandan state may be a direct result of the loss of the heroes and the imbalance of power their absence has created.

—CONTINUED IN T 'HES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSRE

SURFER REMAINS AN UNKNOWN ENTITY

Silver Surfer has run-in with United States Air Force

Staff Photo By Chuck Giambalvo

Ron Barney Daily Bugle

He has long been considered a defender of our world. A man from a far away planet who risked his life and sacrificed his freedom to save the people of Earth from his erstwhile master, Galactus. Now, it seems, public perception has changed.

Since his recent return to Earth, an uneasy calm has enveloped the Surfer, and those that have encountered him are uncertain what to make of it. "It's like he's a different person—colder, more with-drawn than before," said Michelle Bannon, who briefly encountered the Surfer on the streets of New York.

The Silver Surfer is reported to have had a less than peaceful encounter with a squadron of United States Air Force planes on patrol. The Defense Department refused to comment on the incident.

-CONTINUED IN SILVER SURFER #125

SAVIOR OR SINISTER?

Dani Hosek AP

An increasing amount of attention has centered on a mysterious individual known only as "Nate" who has begun to attract the loyalty of many New Yorkers. Operating out of an unidentified location in Greenwich Village, Nate has engendered a popular, trendy following among a number of New York citizens, creating in effect, a cult.

Little is known about the group, but some believers say he has exhibited otherworldly powers, and has peformed miracles before their very eyes. "He's a great man," says May Gardner. "I'm not sure if he's the second coming or not, but he certainly has my attention!" Added May's friend and fellow acolyte, Kerry Kavanagh, "It's so hard to find something worth believing in these days. These are troubling times for all of us. Nate tells us that we must pull together and become one. Divide and Conquer—know what I mean?"

Interestingly, the "Cult of Nate" has received little attention in the media until recently, when he was seen in the company of the vigilante, Spider-Man. This recent sight-ing might suggest that Nate is actually a super-powered individual, possibly even a mutant, rather than the religious figure that he has become in many people's eyes. Spider-Man, who has himself achieved a certain level of notoriety since his first appearance, is not considered to be a hero in the view of the police department. Now, speculation has begun that Nate may be as much a menace to society as Spider-Man himself.

-CONTINUED IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #428 and X-MAN #24

J. ıonah Jameson

REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF LOSS—AND GAINS

As Christmas descends upon our troewied city and 1996 draws to its inevitable close, it is a time of reflection for all. This year saw the most horrible and unimaginable event possible, the loss of our greatest heroes from our lives.

The death of many of New York's and, for that matter, the world's most prominent heroes left a void in the hearts of many. It seems as if our hopes, dreams and aspirations rest on the fortunes of those who have chosen to dedicate their lives to protecting the common man. With our great defenders gone, ihthas become a little harder to walk the streets during the day, a little more difficult to turn off the light at night.

For most of us, the security and sense of safety that the heroes provided us was an unconscious thing. We took for granted the notion that there would always be someone out there watching over us. Now, that father-figure is gone, and we are left to fend for ourselves. It is not unlike the primitive men of ages past, who depended on the mercy of their gods to keep watch over them, and protect them from the demons without.

In truth, though, perhaps all is not lost. It has been said that things hap-pen for a reason, and perhaps a lesson can be learned from our heroes leaving us. For the first time, we have neither gods for the different seasons nor heroes for all five boroughs. At last, we, the people of New York and those of the world must stand up and hold ourselves to a higher, better standard of conduct, because there are no longer any Avengers or Fantastic Four to save us in our times of need. Perhaps the time has come for each of us to become a hero.

Tom Palmer

Tom Palmer has been a proud, card-carrying member of the comics industry (and Marvel Comics in particular) since 1968, when he first worked on DOCTOR STRANGE. Now 28 years later, we sat down with the oft-described "nicest man in comics" to discuss a great many things, including his run on the AVENGERS and the evolution of the comics industry.

"the nicest man in comics"

Not Tom: Boy, have comics changed. The production process has evolved by leaps and bounds over the last couple of years to the point where it is completely different from how comics used to be done. Where do you see the biggest difference between comics "then" and comics "now"?

Tom: The finished product. The way it looks today is a lot better than it did a few years ago. Coloring now can save you. I don't know if that was true a few years ago.

Not Tom: "Coloring," you say? Would you care to elaborate?

Tom: For many years the colorist was anonymous, without reference or credit in comics. Up until the early 70s at least. By the same token, the whole coloring process was simpler. There were limited colors and only so many variations on each color that you could use. Today all the sophistication of magazine printing is available. Now the color guides you render for the computer separators to follow are small pieces of artwork in themselves.

Not Tom: So you think the job of the colorist has evolved a great deal, then?

Tom: Someone like Marie Severin probably colored a few comic books a week; today with all the time and work required for each page, your output is in limited pages per day.

Not Tom: As in anything that's undergoing a major change in process, it seems like the coloring portion of the work right now must be fraught with problems and confusion. In particular, I think there is still some question as to where the colorist's portion of the work leaves off and the color separator's job begins.

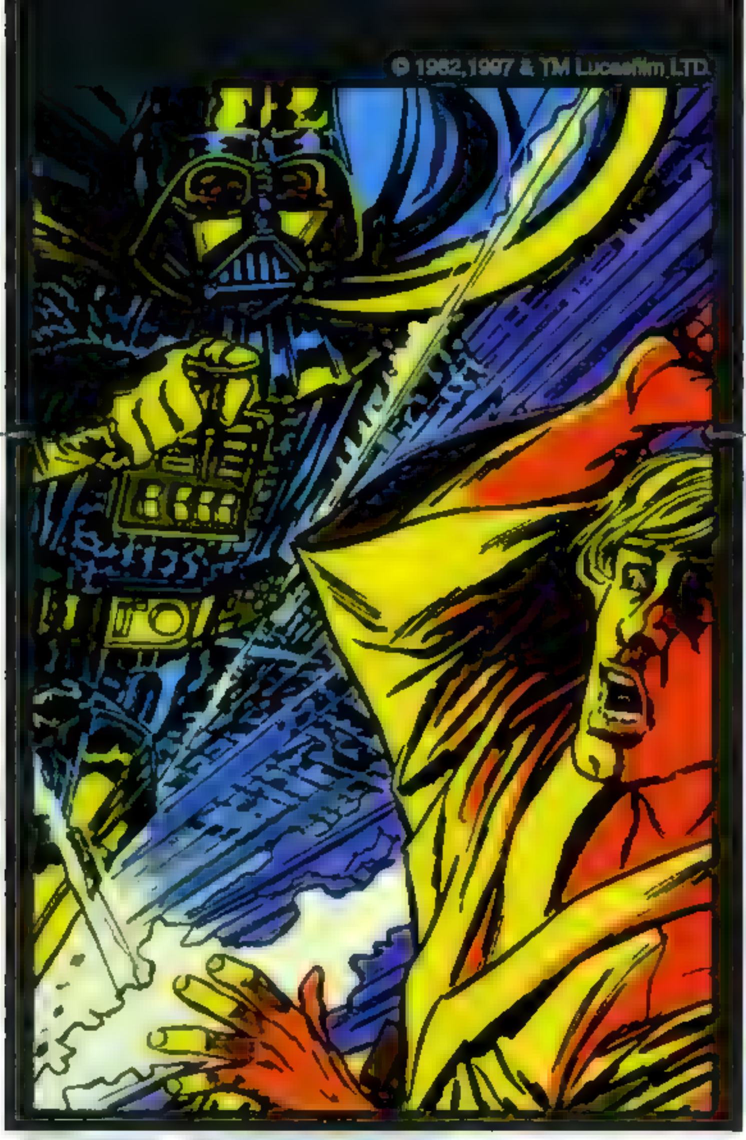
Tom: There is no hard standard right now. Color guides are being rendered in mixed media with very individual results. With all this attention to detail the colorist can leave no room for error. Coding of each color on those guides is almost impossible and the separators have to be artists themselves to interpret them.

Not Tom: A lot of people associate you more with inking than with coloring. When you do color a project, does that change your inking approach at all ?

Tom: Yes. You can decide, for instance, that since a particular sequence is a night scene, a color rather than an inking detail would work better in, say, a background. If you're working toward some lighting effects, having both inks and color at hand can work wonders. Very rewarding, but time-consuming.

Not Tom: The ups and downs of the comics industry have been well documented as of late, and I think the fans are intensely aware of all the changes that have occurred as a result. Obviously, anytime a small industry becomes a very large and commercial one, there are bound to be changes. Have you been at all affected by all this?

Tom: I think the atmosphere over the last few years has not been conducive to allowing the creative community in comics the freedom to work and not worry about the extraneous problems of the industry. We're all about 21+ adults working in a medium called "comic books," and the only way to tap that communicative resource is to keep in contact with that part of our childhood when comics were magic! Some of the growing pains of the industry should have remained the worry of others in the business.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Not Tom: Most people associate you with the AVENGERS and your long run on that book. Now I know you've been asked this stuff a million times, but would you care to tell us why you returned to the book back on issue #254, and how the heck you ended up staying on the book for so long?

Tom: Back in '85, Mark Gruenwald called and asked if I would work on the AVENGERS with John Buscema. Not wanting to be tied down to a monthly book after a long run on TOMB OF DRACULA, I reluctantly agreed to do one issue. Mark and I both had a laugh earlier this year when I reminded him of my reluctance to get on the book and now you can't get rid of me! That time on the book with John Buscema was great. Everything came together and you really had to pinch yourself— "I'm working with John Buscema!"

Not Tom: Obviously, there was a great deal you loved about working on the book or else you wouldn't have stayed on for so long. Is there one run in particular where you felt especially proud to be a part of the team?

Tom: The Harras/Epting run, the whole "Proctor" stretch, from around #355 to #375. First, the pages were lettered on the boards, so I could read the story and also tailor the artwork to fit the balloons. Also, Steve was a terrific storyteller above everything else, and it just...there was an ease of working together, me and Steve, and I think both Steve and I enjoyed the finished product. Again it was one of those times when the pieces fit and it worked. It was also a time when you got feedback from people up at Marvel, people who did not work on the book, who said it was their must-read each month, so something had to be right. I think a perfect blend of story and art, well defined characters, a classic storyline. I was proud to be associated with the book.

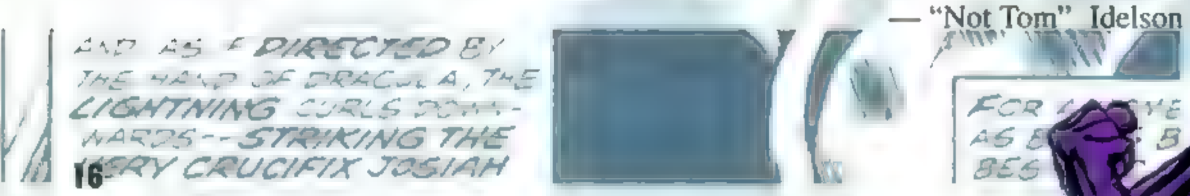
Not Tom: One of the most obvious changes in the industry is how the penciling and inking look of many books has become homogenized. It seems like now, individuality seems to be lacking a little bit among the corps of pencilers and inkers today.

Tom: There used to be distinctive individuals out there, John Buscema, Joe Kubert, to name a couple. You would never mistake the artists of that era for each other, and it seems like the industry was on better footing then, too. You would look forward to a particular person going onto a book. It seems like now most of the art styles are the same, that there's no big change when a new art team arrives on a book.

Not Tom: But like all trends, don't you think this one will be cyclical in nature?

Tom: Yes. I think individuality is definitely on the rise again; you can see it from the smaller publishers. You mentioned [earlier before the interview took place] both Andy and Adam Kubert are both doing new projects for Marvel (KA-ZAR and THE HULK respectively), and it is their talent and unique styles that I think are exciting people about those books. Maybe this is the start of a new era in comics.

— "Not Tom" Idelson



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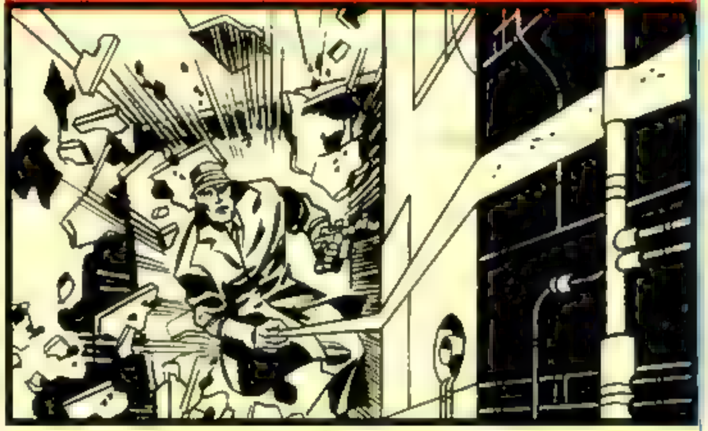
TITLE STRANGE TALES ARTIST KIRBY/STERANKO

ONE OF OUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE ARTISTS IS JIM STERANKO. AT DIFFERENT POINTS DURING HIS CAREER AT MARVEL, HE PENCILED, INKED, WROTE OR COLORED EVERYONE FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA TO NICK FURY TO THE ORIGINAL X-MEN TO THE INCREDIBLE HULK. HIS THREE ISSUES OF ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** (#110, #111, #113) ARE HAILED EVEN TO THIS DAY AS SOME OF THE BEST ISSUES EVER DONE ON CAPTAIN AMERICA. AND STERANKO'S RUN ON ***NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.*** IS LEGENDARY AND A STUDY IN GRAPHIC STORYTELLING. TO SAY THAT STERANKO INFLUENCED A GENERATION OF ARTISTS IS TO PUT

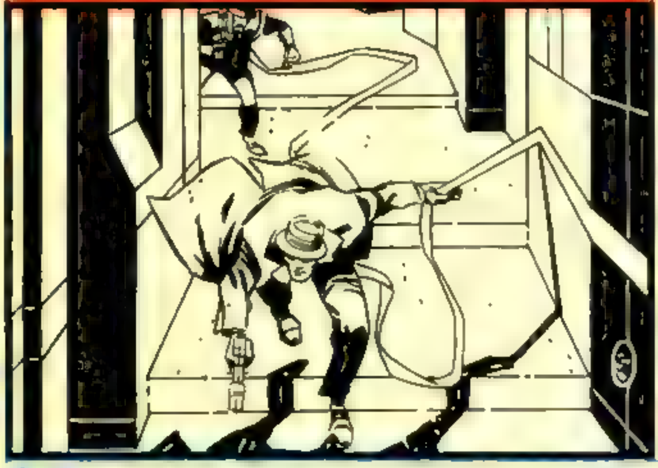
THINGS TOO MILDLY. EVERY TIME HE TOUCHED A MARVEL CHARACTER, HE CREATED SOMETHING UNSEEN UNTIL THAT VERY MOMENT. IT IS STERANKO'S STYLE AND APPROACH TO THE CRAFT OF STORYTELLING THAT SETS HIM APART FROM THE REST OF COMICDOM. HIS GRAPHIC NOVEL CHANDLER WAS THE ORIGINAL SIN CITY, USING LIGHT AND SHADOW IN A FILM NOIR STYLE THAT EVEN TODAY PUTS MOST ARTWORK TO SHAME. APART FROM KIRBY, PROBABLY NO OTHER ARTIST IN MARVEL HISTORY HAS AFFECTED BOTH ARTISTS AND FANS ALIKE AS MUCH AS STERANKO'S WORK.

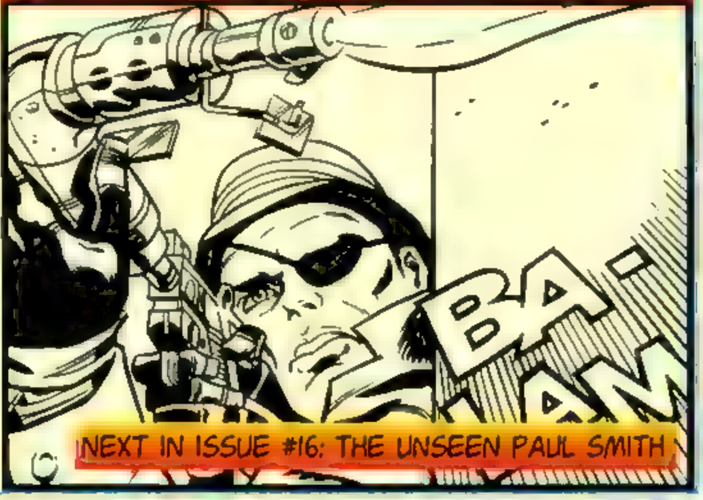
TO SAY HE WORKED MAGIC ON THE PAGE IS TO HINT AT THE CHARACTER OF THE MAN HIMSELF. HE'S AN ACCOMPLISHED MAGICIAN, A JAZZ FANATIC, AND A SKILLED ESCAPE ARTIST, HAVING DEFIED DEATH MORE TIMES THAN THE CHARACTERS



HE DRAWS. STERANKO IS A MAN OF MYSTERY HIMSELF... AND THESE TWO PAGES REVEAL THE BEGINNINGS OF SUCH MYSTERY.

FOR NO FAN HAS EVER SEEN THE ORIGINAL TRY-OUT PAGES STERANKO HIMSELF INKED OVER KIRBY TO LAND THE JOB ON STRANGE TALES. NOW, ALMOST 30 YEARS LATER, THIS ART HAS RESURFACED. THESE ARE THE FIRST STERANKO INKS EVER TO GRACE KIRBY'S INFECTIOUS ART. IT LEAVES ALL WHO SEE IT BEGGING FOR MORE.

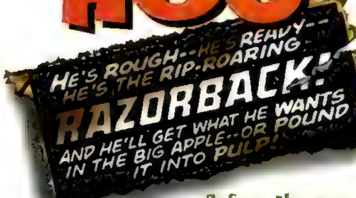




NEXT IN ISSUE #16: THE UNSEEN PAUL SMITH

TITLE **STRANGE TALES** ARTIST KIRBY/STERANKO

HOG WILD!



Before there was the Internet, there were C.B. (citizen band) radios. Today's computer hackers may understand the appeal; back in the 1970s it was considered a big thrill to speak to total strangers in your area on a HAM [High Amplitude Modulation. —"Tesla" Tuohy] radio.

The fad had started with truck drivers, who had invented their own lingo, much like in today's online chat rooms. This lingo introduced many popular catch phrases into the American vocabulary and it even inspired the hit song and film "Convoy!" Writer Bill Mantlo knew a good thing when he heard it, so he created Razorback—the first super hero inspired by the C.B. craze—in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #13 (December, 1977).

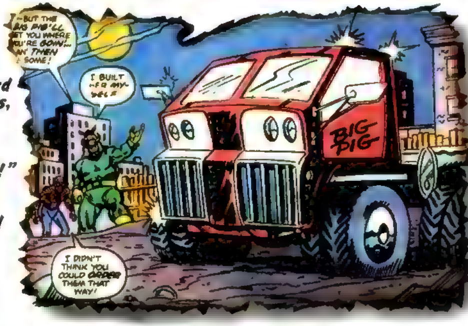
Popping a wheelie in the Big Pig, Razorback raved, "This here ROAD JOCKEY's gonna kick out the SLACK and let the MOTOR TOTE 'ER!" With dialogue like that, it's a wonder the C.B. craze didn't last longer! Amazingly, Razorback is never actually depicted using a C.B. radio in the story!

When Razorback first came on the scene, he (of course) attacked Spidey and informed him that he was going to "clean up this here DIRTY CITY—usin' you as my BROOM!" R.B. introduced himself by saying "The handle's RAZORBACK...but I'll BEST be remembered as the dude who 10-7'd SPIDER-MAN—PERMANENTLY!" A footnote informed us that 10-7 means "killed" in C.B. talk! (C.B. operators used code-names, called "handles," just like Internet users do today!)

This loser hung around with Spidey for the next three issues, helping the wall-crawler take on a phony religious cult which was secretly headed by the Man-Beast! Buford was looking for his sister, who had been captured by the cult and brainwashed. When he was finally reunited with his sibling, Buford was so happy, he exclaimed, "It's just like JAMBOREE SEASON back in Texarkana!" (One can only imagine what transpires during Jamboree Season in Texarkana!)

Many years went by before we saw Buford Hollis again. The last time this Smokey & the Bandit reject was seen, was in an issue of SHE-HULK by John Byrne.

RAZORBACK, who wore a giant hog costume, zapped Spidey good with his electrified mane, and then explained where his costume came from. "I designed it myself—outta spare radio parts!" R.B. then revealed that he was, in actuality, Buford Hollis, from Texarkana, Arkansas, and that he attacked Spidey because "all you Eastern super-types always stomp each other by way of INTRODUCTION!" As if that wasn't enough, R.B then took Spidey for a ride in his semi-truck, an eight-wheeled wonder called the Big Pig, which came when he whistled for it!



It is not known exactly where Razorback is today—he's probably out there, somewhere, trying in vain to call up somebody on his C.B. radio: "Breaker, breaker. This here's Pigpen. Anybody out there got their ears on?" But if Razorback ever does return, his fans will surely be in Hog Heaven!

That's a big 10-4, good buddies!

—Barry Dutter

JUSTICE, LIKE LIGHTNING...

THUNDERBOLTS STRIKE!

BY GLENN GREENBERG

THE AVENGERS ARE GONE. THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE DISAPPEARED. THE GREATEST SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD ARE NOW PRESUMED DEAD, NEVER TO RETURN, AND THE POPULACE OF THE EARTH MUST ACCEPT THE SOBERING FACT THAT THEIR PLANET AND THEIR VERY LIVES MAY WELL BE UNPROTECTED WHEN THE NEXT MAJOR THREAT APPEARS (AND IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT MAJOR THREAT!). BUT THERE IS A RAY OF HOPE ON THE HORIZON! A NEW GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY THE AVENGERS AND THE FF, AND THEY MEAN BUSINESS! THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE THUNDERBOLTS, AND THEIR BAPTISM OF FIRE HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

WRITTEN BY UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN SCRIBE KURT BUSIEK, AND PENCILED BY MARK BAGLEY OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN FAME, THUNDERBOLTS IS A NEW, ONGOING MONTHLY SERIES PREMIERING IN FEBRUARY, BUT THE TEAM ITSELF WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE PAGES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK #449 AND TALES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1. QUITE AN AUSPICIOUS DEBUT, CONSIDERING THAT NOBODY EVEN HEARD OF THEM BEFORE!

TO GET THE SCOOP ON THE TEAM AND THE NEW SERIES, VISION WENT DIRECTLY TO THE SOURCE, KINDLY KURT HIMSELF! AS HE EXPLAINS IT, "IT WAS ALL SCOTT LOBDELL'S IDEA! EVERYTHING AT MARVEL IS SCOTT LOBDELL'S IDEA!"

BUT SERIOUSLY, KURT CONTINUES, REGAINING HIS MORE SERIOUS VENEER, "THE WAY THUNDERBOLTS CAME ABOUT WAS THAT SEVERAL YEARS AGO, ON A LONG CAR RIDE, I KEPT MY MIND OCCUPIED BY IMAGINING I'D BEEN GIVEN A COMIC BOOK SERIES TO WRITE THAT I HAD NEVER WRITTEN BEFORE. IN THIS CASE, IT WAS THE AVENGERS, AND I HAD A NUMBER OF IDEAS OF WHAT I'D DO WITH THEM. ONE INVOLVED THE SLOW REPLACEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHED, EXPERIENCED MEMBERS WITH NEW, UNTRIED HEROES.

OLD MEMBERS WOULD BE ROTATED OUT, AND NEW MEMBERS WOULD BE ROTATED IN. I WOULD EXPLORE WHAT EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE TEAM AND ON THEIR WORLD. THESE NEW MEMBERS WOULD MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF PASSION, BUT NOT THE SAME LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE AND NOT THE SAME APPROACH."

THIS CONCEPT FOR THE AVENGERS REMAINED AT THE BACK OF KURT'S MIND, AND CAME TO THE FORE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1996, DURING WHICH MARVEL HELD A THREE-DAY CREATOR CONFERENCE (SEE LAST ISSUE— TIM), A THINK TANK CONSISTING OF THE COMPANY'S EDITORS AND TOP CREATIVE TALENTS, BROUGHT TOGETHER TO CONCEIVE AND DEVELOP NEW IDEAS AND NEW TAKES ON ESTABLISHED CHARACTERS FOR 1997. KURT WAS ONE OF THOSE CREATIVE TALENTS INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE, AND HE FOUND THAT HIS IDEA COULD BE UTILIZED IN THE NEW, POST-ONSLAUGHT MARVEL UNIVERSE, WHICH HAD JUST SEEN MOST OF ITS KEY HEROES SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO DEFEAT THE SUPER-VILLAIN, ONSLAUGHT.

"I REALIZED THAT WITH A FEW MODIFICATIONS, MY CONCEPT WOULD WORK WELL IN THE CURRENT, POST-ONSLAUGHT MARVEL UNIVERSE," EXPLAINS KURT. "WHAT HAPPENED IN ONSLAUGHT WAS THAT THE AVENGERS AND THE FF, WHAT I CALL THE NICE, FRIENDLY, DAYTIME HEROES, AS OPPOSED TO THE

DARKER CHARACTERS LIKE THE X-MEN AND THE HULK, WERE SCOOPED OUT OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, LEAVING A VOID. THERE WERE NO HEROES IN THE SAME VEIN AS THE AVENGERS AND THE FF LEFT BEHIND, REALLY. HEROES THAT THE COMMON MAN WOULD TRUST, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRUST. HEROES LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA, FOR EXAMPLE. CAP MEANS SOMETHING TO THE COMMON MAN. THE COMMON MAN LOOKS UP TO CAP, TRUSTS CAP, AND CAP'S PRESUMED DEATH AFFECTS THE COMMON MAN IN A PROFOUND WAY. SOMEONE LIKE WOLVERINE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO THE AVERAGE MAN ON THE STREET, WHO MAY NOT EVEN KNOW WHO WOLVERINE IS! THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE REACTING TO THAT VOID LEFT BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CAP AND THE OTHER, 'ACCEPTED' HEROES.THEY WANT TO BE THOSE NICE, FRIENDLY, DAYTIME HEROES FROM NOW ON."

DURING THE CREATOR CONFERENCE, KURT SUGGESTED THE IDEA OF THE THUNDERBOLTS TO TOM BREVOORT, HIS EDITOR ON THE CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED UNTOLD TALES SERIES. TOM RESPONDED FAVORABLY, AND BOTH THEN BROUGHT THE IDEA TO EDITOR IN CHIEF BOB HARRAS, WHO WAS IMMEDIATELY ENTHUSIASTIC.

CITIZEN V

ATLAS

BOB APPROVED IT ON THE SPOT, KURT REVEALS. "FASTEST SALE I EVER MADE!" AND MARK BAGLEY, HAVING JUST FINISHED UP A FOUR-YEAR RUN ON THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, WAS THE ARTIST THAT KURT AND TOM HAD IN MIND FROM THE VERY START. MARK, WHO WAS EXCITED BY BOTH THE CONCEPT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH KURT, IMMEDIATELY SIGNED ON. THE TEAM WAS SET.

ONE MINOR SNAG POPPED UP, THOUGH: PETER DAVID WAS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE A TEAM VERY SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO THE THUNDERBOLTS IN THE INCREDIBLE HULK. AND HE HAD THIS IN THE WORKS BEFORE KURT'S IDEA WAS APPROVED! WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO?

A PHONE CALL BETWEEN KURT AND PETER SOLVED EVERYTHING: PETER WOULD USE THE THUNDERBOLTS IN THE HULK, HE WOULD ACTUALLY GET TO INTRODUCE THE TEAM, AND THEN KURT AND MARK WOULD PICK THEM UP IN A STORY SET TO APPEAR IN THE NEW TALES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE QUARTERLY ANTHOLOGY. AFTER THAT, THE ONGOING SERIES, ALSO BY KURT AND MARK, WOULD BEGIN. ONCE THIS WAS SETTLED, WHAT FOLLOWED NEXT WAS A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STRING OF PHONE CALLS BETWEEN TOM, KURT AND MARK, WITH STORY IDEAS AND CHARACTER SKETCHES COMING IN AT A FAST AND FURIOUS PACE. THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM: THE ENIGMATIC CITIZEN V, THE LOVELY METEORITE, THE GIANT-SIZED ATLAS, THE YOUNG AND VIBRANT SONGBIRD, THE HUMAN

FIGHTER PLANE, MACH-1, AND THE TECHNICAL GENIUS TECHNO ALL TOOK SHAPE, BECOMING THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS WITH EYE-CATCHING VISUALS. AND AS WORD GOT OUT ABOUT THE NEW TEAM AND THEIR NEW SERIES, INTEREST IN THEM REALLY SOARED.

EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE THUNDERBOLTS, SAYS AN EXCITED TOM BREVOORT. "THERE'S AN INTEREST LEVEL AMONG THE FANS, AND EVEN AMONG PEOPLE AROUND THE OFFICE, THAT I FIND EXTREMELY GRATIFYING. I THINK IT BODES WELL FOR THE SERIES. READERS WILL BE TREATED TO MANY SURPRISES AND TWISTS ALONG THE WAY AS THEY GET TO KNOW THE THUNDERBOLTS, AS A TEAM AND AS INDIVIDUALS. SOME OF THE T-BOLTS MAY BE CHARACTERS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEEN BEFORE, UNDER DIFFERENT NAMES AND COSTUMES. SOME OF THEM WILL UNDERGO STARTLING CHANGES. SOME OF THEM WILL FACE VERY DIFFICULT CAREER AND LIFE CHOICES. AND ALL OF IT WILL RESULT IN ONE OF THE MOST DARING, MIND-BOGGLING AND INNOVATIVE TEAM BOOKS EVER ATTEMPTED!"

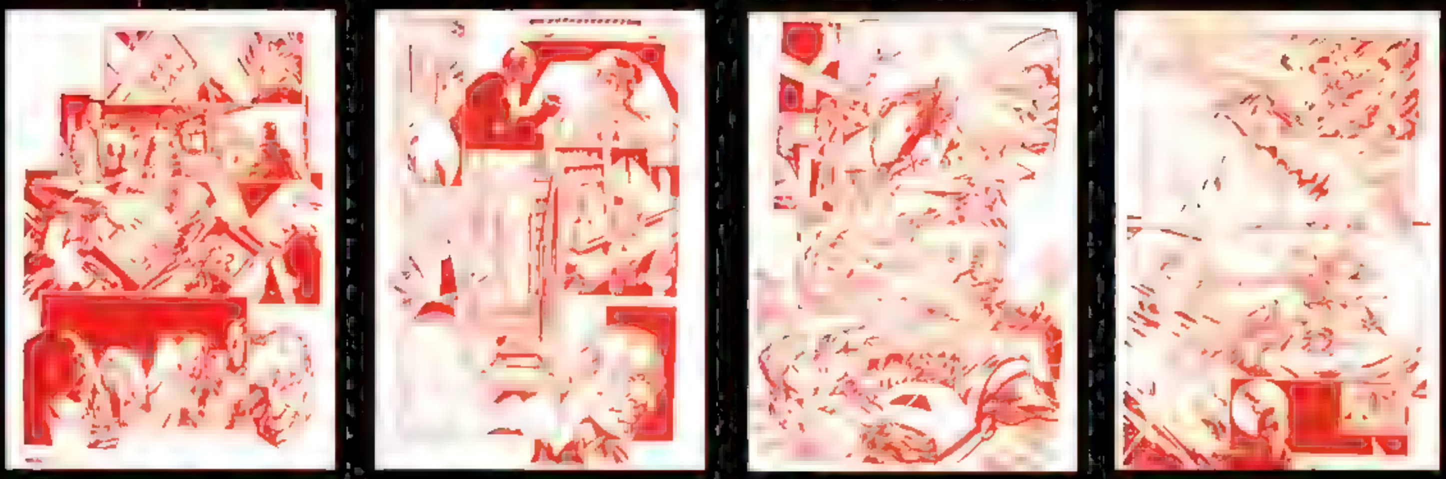
DOWN THE LINE, READERS CAN ALSO EXPECT TO SEE THE T-BOLTS APPEAR IN SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN, WITH

TECHNO

SONGBIRD

WRITER TODD DEZAGO EAGER AS ALL GET-OUT TO HAVE THEM MEET UP WITH THE WONDROUS WALL-CRAWLER. AND THERE'S ALREADY TALK OF A THUNDERBOLTS ANNUAL FOR 1997! THIS COULD VERY WELL BE THE BIGGEST THING TO HIT THE MARVEL UNIVERSE SINCE, WELL, THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

THE WORLD NEEDS HEROES AND THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE ON THE WAY TO ANSWER THE CALL!



STAR TREK MIRROR MIRROR

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL... ...what's the coolest STAR TREK book of them all? Hey pal, you just answered your own question! MIRROR MIRROR, a special, double-sized one-shot that's coming out just in time for Christmas is gonna satisfy a Marvel fan's lust for hard-driving comic book action, and a Trekker's desire for more, more, more of one of the most popular original Trek episodes ever!

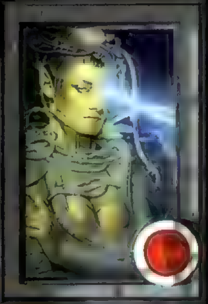
MIRROR MIRROR picks up immediately where the episode of the same name left off! Namely, in the parallel universe, where Starfleet is a barbaric, warlike institution and the crew of the Enterprise a mutinous bunch! The parallel-Kirk and his landing crew beam back aboard the Enterprise after their accidental journey to the "normal" Enterprise (detailed in the aforementioned TV episode)...only to find themselves at the business end of parallel-Spock's phaser! Spock has been ordered by Starfleet Command to kill Captain Kirk!

A no-holds-barred knife fight ensues, and the ship's crew is rapidly divided into two factions: those who support Kirk and those who support Spock...or at least pretend to! In this barbaric universe, no one's loyalties can be counted on to last for even a page! Kirk has the lusty, driven Sulu and the club-wielding Scotty on his side...but Spock has the murderous Chekov, the lovely lady Marlena, and the deadly Tantalus Field in *his* corner!

Amidst the mutiny and rioting, it is learned that both Admiral Decker and a Klingon warship are approaching — the one intending to inspect and the other to destroy! But will there be anything left when they get there?

MIRROR MIRROR is written by comics fan fave and avowed Trekker Tom DeFalco and drawn by Mark "they call me AMAZING SPIDER-MAN" Bagley! If you ever wondered what happened to the cretinous "Mirror" crew from the TV series, or if you just like non-stop action and high adventure, MIRROR MIRROR is a book you've got to look into to believe!

—Polly (I really want Yeoman Rand's beehive doo.) Watson



OPERATION ASSIMILATION
COVER PAINTER: HAJIME SORAYAMA
WRITER: PAUL JENKINS
PENCIL LAYOUTS: STEVE ERWIN
EMBELLISHES: TERRY PALLOT

No Kirk, no Picard, no Sisko, not even a Janeway. In fact, STAR TREK: OPERATION ASSIMILATION doesn't include one single recurring character from any Star Trek TV show or movie. What it does include is a story that promises to be unlike any Trek comic ever done. "This is a breakthrough Star Trek book. By picking up a plot thread left in one of the TV episodes and fleshing it out, we're expanding the Trek universe and taking it into a whole new direction. This has simply never been done before," explains editor Mark Paniccia.

That plot thread, the introduction of a Romulan vessel into Federation space, occurred in the last episode of Star Trek The Next Generation's first season, "The Neutral Zone." "That story marked the first reappearance of Romulans in some 50 years of Trek continuity." OPERATION ASSIMILATION tells the story of her crew. A large part of that story deals with the problems of being a Romulan warrior without a war. Not to mention leaving behind your home and never being able to return.

Paniccia credits writer Paul Jenkins (HELLBLAZER) with the originality of this one-shot. "Paul is constantly amazing me as a writer," he raved; "not only has he impressed me with this darker, more mature Star Trek tale, but he's even impressed the Trek experts at Paramount. As the licensor, it's their job to ensure the quality of these stories. They're so happy with OPERATION ASSIMILATION that we're already talking about doing another."

Mark has equally laudable praise for his artists. Cover painter Hajime Sorayama has turned in a piece that Mark calls "the best Trek cover ever." And Mark refers to interior painter Jeff Pitarelli as "thrilling." But Paniccia's excitement isn't only about the story, it's about the inclusion of "extra" material that truly makes this one-shot a special edition.

"We've got an interview with Jonathan 'Commander Riker' Frakes," Paniccia explained, "in which he discusses the show, Riker, and of course, his current project, directing the new Next Generation film, *First Contact*." Since the film deals with everyone's most hated Trek villains, the Borg, the Frakes interview also includes never-before-seen pre-production design sketches of the Borg. The comparison between the new and the original is dramatic and is a must-see for casual and hard-core fans alike.

Mark feels there's a lot riding on OPERATION ASSIMILATION. "Star Trek is more than just the characters," he explained. "It's about this whole universe teeming with incredible alien beings and places that have just barely been explored in the past. There's a whole wealth of good Star Trek stories out there. This book is the first. If it's successful then the comics will crack open a whole new avenue of potential Trek television and movie possibilities. That's exciting!"

—Matt Morra

STAR TREK OPERATION ASSIMILATION

SILVER SURFER

TIME SLIP

JEFF SMITH

Welcome to the Marvel Universe that would have been if today's hottest creators had been with Stan Lee on the eve of the birth of Marvel Comics. Think of this as the world that might have been, think of it as the world that might still be coming.

Jeff Smith, famed for the writing and drawing of his own creation, BONE, takes his animated abilities to he who soars the spaceways —The Silver Surfer.

You may know of the sacrifice Norrin Radd made for his homeworld of Zenn-La. About that fated moment when when the shadow of death fell across his entire planet in the form of the world-eater, Galactus. A moment when an unholy bargain was struck to save Zenn-La and Norrin Radd became Galactus's herald... the Silver Surfer.

We know now that Galactus manipulated his new servant's mind, causing him to have no regrets over leading his master to new worlds to devour.

But in the world where Jeff Smith designed the Silver Surfer, the sacrifice, while just as noble, led to a far more terrible fate than even Galactus anticipated.

Norrin, now called the the Silver Surfer and devoid of guilt and and regret, was so changed by the cosmic rays that transformed him that even loyalty was a characteristic made alien to him. And soon, he began to lust for command of the ship of his master. And while he sought out worlds for his master's unending appetite, he would also seek out certain components necessary to construct a weapon to slay or "nullify" Galactus.

In time he did just that. And with the dying breaths of Galactus, the master not only undid the binds he had placed on Norrin Radd's conscience, but also revealed the reason and source of his hunger. And Norrin, with tears that even now float through the never-ending skyways, was confronted with all he had done... and all that lay in peril with the death of his master, and this led to the second sacrifice of the Silver Surfer.

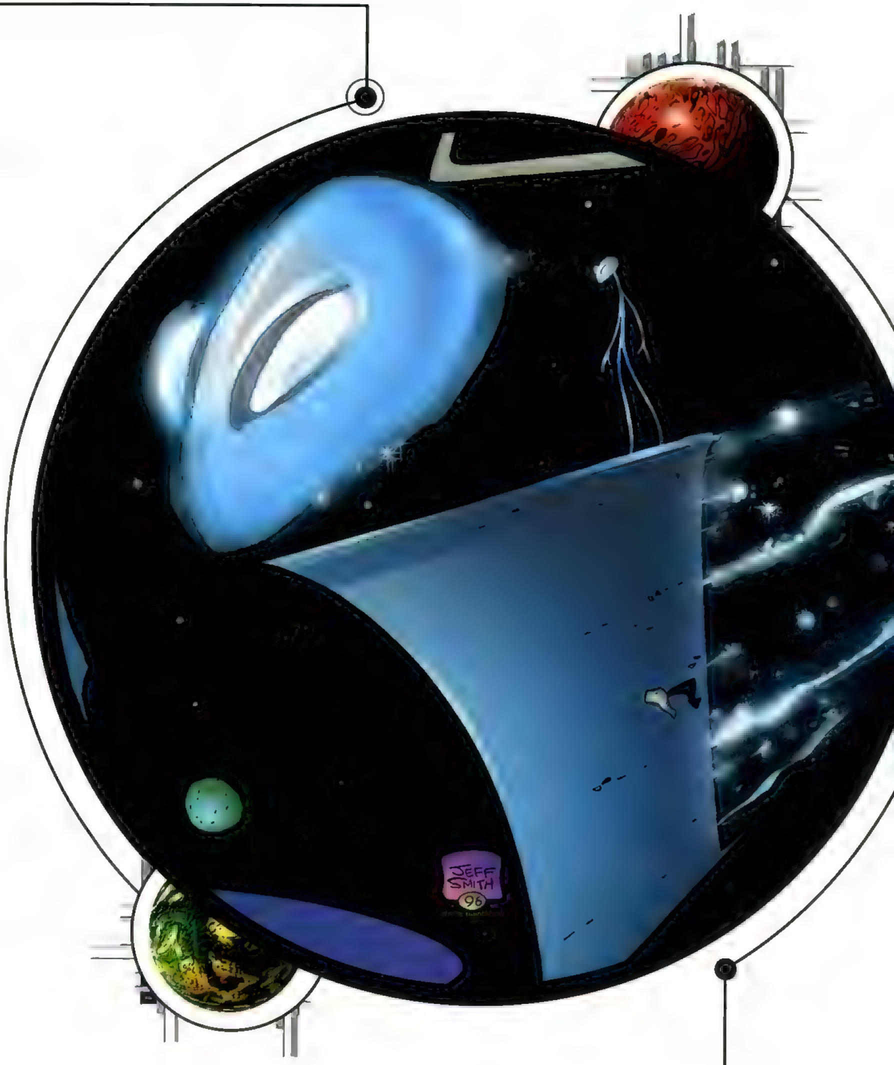
There are some tragedies so terrible that we believe there can be nothing worse. But there always is something more terrible than what we are even able to imagine. And so, having learned the tragedy to befall all of creation now that Galactus was not a part of it, Norrin became his master and a destroyer of worlds himself.

He recreated Galactus' ship into a cosmic sliver which would slice through the cosmos. He is a flying Dutchman, destroying everything in his wake, all he finds for the sake of all that exists.

Mercy would not be completely denied him, for years from now, after ripping through countless worlds, the Surfer's conscience would leave him... he would have no more heart. No more soul. No more mind. And perhaps that's what accounts for his appearance. For without conscience, the cosmic rays which give him life act as a cancer, eating away at who he is, warping and gaunting the once noble surfer.

The last dying transmissions of worlds halved by the Surfer report a strange ship of sorts. In truth... it is the face of death... the face of the Silver Surfer.

Like his master, he is a villain to his victims... a villain who may just be the greatest hero of them all.



ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

The Birth of Wolverine

By Pat Jankiewicz

He's tough. How tough? He's gone toe to toe with The Hulk, The Thing, Spider-Man, Dracula, Punisher, Daredevil, Dr. Doom, Venom and The Watcher. He's durable. How durable? He's been shot, stabbed, burned, impaled, gutted and even had his spinal cord ripped out but still lived to talk about it. He's been to Outer Space, the Savage Land, the Center of the Earth, the far future, the distant past and parallel worlds. Wolverine, "the best there is at what he does."

Since his debut in THE INCREDIBLE HULK #181, where he fought both Hulk and The Wendigo to a standstill, Wolverine has been Marvel's most popular mutant. Also known as 'Logan' and 'Weapon X', the short tempered Canadian knows very little about his true origins. Ironically, Marvel readers know just as little about the character's real backhistory.

When he first showed up in HULK, he was different from the violent, antisocial outsider he is today. His creators, writer Len Wein and artist John Romita, Sr., recall how they gave birth to one of Marvel's most offbeat and enduring characters.

The year is 1974 and 'Wolverine' is a name that was given to writer Len Wein "by Roy Thomas, Marvel's editor at the time," Wein remembers. "Roy really appreciated the way I would do accents for different parts of the U.S. and other countries in my stories. When I was writing BROTHER VOODOO, he was really crackers about my Jamaican accent," he laughs.

"Roy came to me and said 'I would like to do a character called Wolverine.' I said 'Tell me about him' but Roy said '(There's) nothing; I've just got a name and I want to see what you can do with a Canadian accent!'"

From there, "John Romita, Sr. designed the original visual of his costume and I made him a mutant because there were rumors that they might revive The X-Men as an international gang of superhero mutants," the scribe explains. "I figured it couldn't hurt to have a Canadian waiting around in the wings if we needed one. He's from Canada because Wolverines are very big up there. You wouldn't get a Wolverine in Miami!"

Romita, Sr., Marvel's recently retired Art Director and the designer of such characters as Mary Jane Watson, Kingpin and The Punisher, enjoyed doing the honors on Wolverine. "Marvel liked masked characters like him because it gave them a lot of options for the future, like an exotic origin."

"When I did the first Wolverine costume, it was yellow and black and had whiskers. They changed his costume as they went along but Todd MacFarlane brought it back (briefly) during his run on SPIDER-MAN."

Wolverine really started evolving when the team of Chris Claremont and John Byrne took over THE UNCANNY X-MEN. Byrne, a Canadian, wanted to build up his fellow Cunuck. They delved more into Logan's mysterious background, even giving him former partners in the Canadian super-group Alpha Flight, as well as revealing some of his secrets, like his healing factor and augmented skeletal system.

His razor-sharp claws are part of his body, an extension of his adamantium skeleton, which came as a surprise to his creators. "The first time I saw an X-MEN where his claws came out of his bare arms, I said 'Oh'," Romita laughs. "I was as surprised as the readers were because they were only supposed to be part of his gloves!" [If you've been following WOLVERINE than you know that his claws are actually part of his own skeleton; he's had them all along.—Tim]

Another change was in his outlook. Where Wein and Romita's original incarnation seemed to be a teen fighting his murderous impulses, the Claremont/Byrne Wolverine was savage, older and more than willing to go berserk and kill a roomful of opponents.

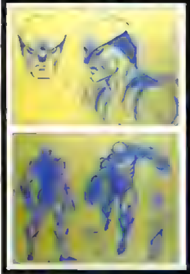
"I would never have had him kill," Wein admits. "I know it's part of why he's so popular but I always thought that what made him a super hero is that his normal instinct is to tear your throat out but he would restrain himself," he smiles.

Another reason for Wolverine's success and popularity is his appeal to artists as well as readers. "I really like Wolverine. He's also very cool to draw," admits Sam Kieth, illustrator of WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNGRY. "When I'm working on Wolverine, I'm not worried if I'm cartoony or realistic, as long as he looks cool."

"Fans of Wolverine are only interested in a really cool version of Wolverine— it can look different, it's just gotta look like he's Clint Eastwood, Canadian and has an attitude. It doesn't even matter if you draw him incorrectly, because there are so many different versions of him. When I draw him, it's been purely 'Let's go for an exciting page of Wolverine!'"

"He's definitely fun to draw," Mark Texeira concurs. "He's one of my favorite characters... I like him not only because he's a mutant but because Wolverine could easily be a very dark, violent character..."

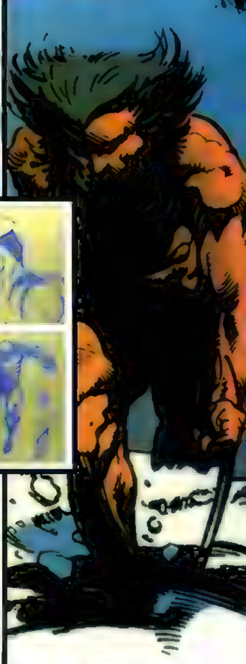
The bushy-haired mutant has to behave himself, now that he's a regular on Marvel's highly rated Saturday morning series X-MEN. Winston Richard, the producer of X-MEN, feels "Wolverine is unique and interesting because he's a loner/tough guy with a heart of gold."



Another change from the comic is Wolverine's bloodthirsty behavior. "He's still a slasher with adamantium claws, but he does not use them to kill people! He keeps his violent nature in check. Broadcast Standards and Practices have no problem with Wolverine having these weapons on his hands because they were implanted on him, it wasn't something he asked for."

"We've tried to give him a conscience on how he uses his claws; he doesn't take casual swipes around peoples' faces or have to kill people. He also does not smoke cigars on the show," the producer laughs, "not even cheroots!"

Regardless of how his behavior changes, Wolverine is certain to remain Marvel's most unpredictable mutant.



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Chewing the fat with HOWARD MACKIE

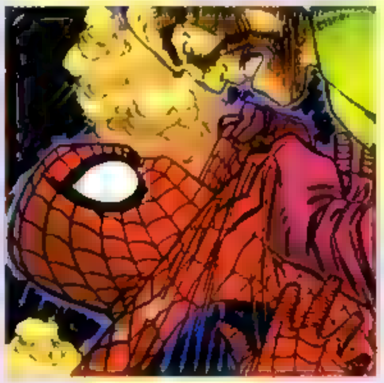
(and don't call him Howie)

He helped make a skull-headed cyclist from the '70s into a high-selling star, took the web-slinging wonder from Earth-shaking clone madness to "back-to-basics" street-level heroics, and is currently forging (pardon the pun) a new destiny for the government-sponsored mutant group X-Factor. And that's not even scratching the surface of the prolific comics career of Howard Mackie. Recently, Howard took a few moments to talk to Marvel Vision about his current projects, his insights on the business, and how he went from export coordinator to assistant editor to one of the most sought-after writers in comics...

MB: Howard, let's start with where you grew up.
HM: Oh, God! (Groaning, because he's heard the question too many times before). All right... I grew up in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

MB: And that's what inspired the setting for GHOST RIDER, right? See, I've got a reason for asking this stuff...
HM: Yes, I grew up in the same neighborhood as Dan Ketch. And that is Dan Ketch, not "Danny," like they're calling him in the book now!! (Growling in mock anger) And you can put that on the record or not! And for that matter, it's John Blaze, not "Johnny!!" (Growling, then laughter) But yes, that's indeed where I grew up.

MB: And were there lotsa comics in those formative years?
HM: Oh, yeah! I had three older sisters, and when they started working in Manhattan, every payday they would bring me home comic books to read. I pretty much taught myself how to read, first with early DC Comics and then Marvels.

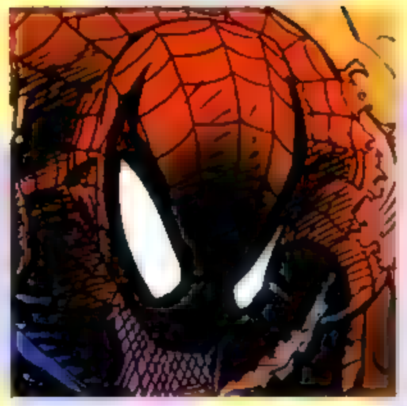


MB: What were you doing when you got the call that said that you had a job at Marvel?
HM: (Laughter) Okay, this is a long story, Mark! Are you ready? I was working at an export company as a traffic manager, and it was probably one of the worst, most boring jobs I ever had. So I hated my job. I had a friend who got sick of hearing me complain about it all the time and he had heard that Mark Gruenwald at Marvel was in the market for a new assistant editor. This friend's name, if you're intrigued, was Mike Carlin -- the guy that's now the executive editor at DC! Mostly, he suggested that I go for the job just to shut me up, 'cause he was sick of hearing me complain about how crappy my job was when we went out to movies, clubs, and the like. Mike supplied me with some current Marvel Comics to get me up to speed, because I had not been following them as diligently as I was in my childhood...

MB: And that led to a full-time editorial career for how many years?
HM: I was an editor for exactly seven years. Seven years to the day! I chose my seventh anniversary to quit staff and go freelance.

MB: Do you recall some of the highlights of your editorial career?
HM: Well, number one was working with, and learning the business from, Mark Gruenwald. He was a very good friend as well, and I still miss him tremendously. And literally, on my first day of working for Mark, within the first hour, I met a young woman by the name of Debra Highley, who went on to become my wife! She was literally in the office when Mark brought me in, he introduced us, and several years later, we were married. Interoffice romances can

occasionally work out! So that was a major highlight. That same day, I met John Byrne for the first time, Walt Simonson for the first time...



MB: And here's the question that makes everyone groan: what was your first published writing assignment?
HM:While I was still an assistant editor, Mark assigned me my first writing job, issue #211 of IRON MAN, drawn by Alex Saviuk, and the cover of which was featured on TV's Amazing Stories!

MB: Wow! How did that come about?
HM: Mark really had to force me. I knew I always wanted to write comics, but was petrified of actually doing so. The writer of the book, Denny O'Neil, had left Marvel in the middle of a storyline and Mark said, "We need someone to finish off this storyline." I said, "You're right." He said, "We need someone who knows the continuity." "You're right." "We need someone who knows the characters." "You're right." He then said, "I need you to do it." I said, "Whoa, boy!" (Both laugh) So he made me write the story. In fact, he made me write it five times, till I got it right! (Both laugh) So that was the start of my freelance career!

MB: Had it been a longtime goal of yours to revamp GHOST RIDER?
HM: Yes! And it's another thing I trace back to Mark Gruenwald. Mark knew I was a big fan of GHOST RIDER, especially the stuff that DeMatteis and Bob Budiansky were doing at the end of the old series. I loved those issues as a fan, and I always talked to mark about how Ghost Rider was such a cool visual, and how I'd really love to bring him back. Some years back, they decided to relaunch GHOST RIDER for the '90s, and Mark Gruenwald encouraged

I like to spelunk!

me to submit a proposal. So I kept saying, "Yeah, right," until I actually did it. I pitched it, they liked it, and the rest is history.

MB: So you were on that book for several years; have you told all the Ghost Rider stories you have to tell?
HM: In retrospect, I think I had a few more in me that I never got to tell. But I don't think I'll ever write another Ghost Rider story. I look at the book now, and it's going in a different direction than I was taking it, but it's being done very nicely.

MB: So how does one go from the dark, gritty horror of GHOST RIDER to the more down-to-Earth heroics of SPIDER-MAN?
HM: Basically, Danny Fingeroth came into my office one day and said, "I like your writing. Want to take a crack at Spider-Man?" It was supposed to be a fill-in issue, but it ended up being a regular assignment as writer of WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, and later SPIDER-MAN. I tried it, and it led to a long and pleasant working experience with both Danny and Spider-Man. But to answer your question: With great difficulty! How do you go back and forth between the two? I learned early on not to try to write some pages of Spider-Man on the same days as pages of Ghost Rider. There were times when Ghost Rider's dialogue came out sounding like Spider-Man's and vice versa. It's very difficult, but it's very necessary to keep yourself well-rounded as a writer.

MB: As one of the corps of Spider-Man writers, what do you think of the direction the books are heading, post-Clone Saga?
HM: I love it! I think we're getting back to who and what not only Spider-Man is supposed to be about, but what Peter Parker is supposed to be about. Basically, we're getting back to the books being about Peter Parker. I think for a while, we had focused a little too much on the "Spider" aspect, and less on the "Man." In my mind, the books should be about not so much how Peter Parker affects the life of Spider-Man, but more importantly, how being Spider-Man affects the life of Peter Parker. I think that sometimes in the course of the clone story, that point may have gotten a little lost.

MB: So what have you got coming up in your book, PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN?
HM: Well, hopefully, post-Clone story, we're all looking at the Spider-Man books with a fresh eye. Spidey's got one of the best-defined supporting casts of any character in comics, and for the past year or so, they've been kind of taken a back seat to all the clone stuff. Now

we're bringing that supporting cast forward once again. J.M. DeMatteis and I will be exploring Flash Thompson and Betty Brant. And in my book, there's the return of the Stacy Family into the life of Spider-Man. Specifically, it's Arthur Stacy, brother of Captain George Stacy, and his daughter Jill, who's Gwen's cousin. And they're due to have quite an impact. It's really a return to what Spider-Man is all about, I think. It's a lot of fun. I've got a couple stories coming up with Morbius the Living Vampire, we'll be doing things with Hydra, and there's a new character called Shoc who I'm really having fun with. I'm also planning some stories with Shang-Chi, the Master of Kung Fu, playing into some X-Men stories that he'll also be in. It's a nice mixture of classic stuff and new stuff, I think. And Spidey's run-in with Morbius will have some long-lasting effects that I really can't get into here!

MB: As writer of X-FACTOR, you're also part of the ever-expanding group of X-book writers. Is this the first ongoing group book you've written?
HM: Yes, it is. And it's quite different for me. I had edited group books for most of my career-the AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS-and I thought, "How hard could it be?" It was very challenging to me in the beginning... but that's what made it fun. I had to approach stories in different ways. I'm not sure that answers your question...

MB: Well, how do you approach the dynamics of a team book differently than a book with a solo character?
HM: The trick to it all is to not lose the stories to the group. You can never forget that the group is made up of individuals, and within the group there are relationships amongst them. That's where the stories come from -- from focusing on those relationships. Early on, I found myself making the mistake of feeling like I had to show the entire group all the time, and throw them into battle... that's how you get no sense of who the members are, because you're not focusing on individuals. More and more, I'm concentrating on the relationships -- between Forge and Mystique, between Wild Child and Shard, between Sabretooth and Mystique -- and building out from there. I guess what I've come to here is that it's actually a very similar approach to writing a solo hero!

MB: How about some tidbits on upcoming X-FACTOR storylines?
HM: Oh, X-FACTOR's just way, way, waaaay cool! (Laughter) X-Factor's whole modus operandi is changing. They're no longer going to be pawns of the government, sent out to do the dirty work. Forge and Polaris have come to the conclusion that that's really not what the group is about. By the time this sees print, the members of X-Factor have gone underground for a short time, and re-establishing themselves as a more proactive organization, directed wholly by themselves rather than any government superiors. Plus, as I said, we'll be exploring relationships between some very disparate characters. There was lots of reader outcry when Sabretooth and Mystique were put in the group -- and actually, I was one of those people who was crying out -- but now they'll begin to see it was all part of a bigger plan, and the new direction could not have happened unless they were here. And that's about all I can give away...

MB: You've worked on lots of books with lots of great artists. Who were some of the best to work with?

HM: I have worked with absolutely the best artists in the business. They've all been just great. Joe Kubert, Adam and Andy Kubert, John Romita Jr. (currently, on SPIDER-MAN), Mark Texeira, Ron Garney, Bret Blevins, Klaus Janson, Jeff Matsuda (now, on X-FACTOR), Tom Lyle, Lee Weeks, Alex Saviuk, Mike Wieringo, Steve Epting... I'm sure I'm forgetting people. Other writers tend to get really jealous when they hear who I've been privileged to work with!

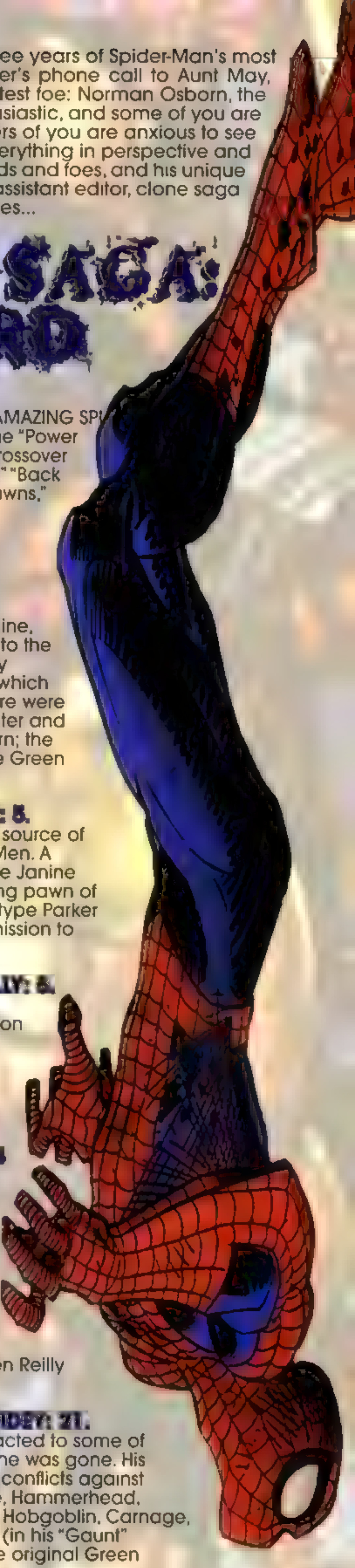
MB: In conclusion, what are you doing when you're not doing comics?
HM: Well, I'm into martial arts... and I'm into sitting around and trying to sleep so I can store up enough energy to catch up on late assignments! (Laughter) I'm a voracious reader... Oh, god, I sound so boring! (Laughter) Okay, then -- I'm into mountain climbing and skydiving. I like to spelunk. (Both laugh) My god, I have no hobbies??!

MB: Do you need some time to recover from this horrid realization?
HM: Are we done? Do we have enough? I have to go find some hobbies... after I finish my work for you, of course!

-- Mark Bernardo Recreationally challenged as well

The landmark 75th issue of SPIDER-MAN put the definitive capper on nearly three years of Spider-Man's most controversial continuity. The storyline, which began with a mysterious stranger's phone call to Aunt May, ended in grand fashion with the breathtaking return of the wall-crawler's greatest foe: Norman Osborn, the original Green Goblin! Response to the epic "Revelations" story has been enthusiastic, and some of you are probably still reeling from the events of that saga. We're willing to bet that others of you are anxious to see a final word on the story, a wrap-up, if you will — a "postgame report" to put everything in perspective and get you up to speed on where this momentous story arc has left Spidey, his friends and foes, and his unique little corner of the Marvel Universe. So, plunge in, if you dare, as former Spidey assistant editor, clone saga veteran, and unofficial keeper of Spider-Man continuity Mark Bernardo compiles...

THE SPIDER-CLONE SAGA: FINAL SCORECARD



NUMBER OF TITLED STORY ARCS WITHIN THE BIGGER STORY: 22.

Notwithstanding the Spider-Man clone's first official appearance way back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #149, most people recognize WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #117, the first part of the "Power and Responsibility" crossover, as the official kickoff to the storyline. After that arc, crossover storylines became the norm. From beginning to end, they were. "The Exile Returns," "Back From the Edge," "Web of Life," "Web of Death," "Smoke and Mirrors," "Players and Pawns," "Aftershocks," "The Mark of Kaine," "Crossfire," "The Trial of Peter Parker," "Maximum Clonage," "Time Bomb," "Exiled," "The Greatest Responsibility," "Virtual Mortality," "CyberWar," "Nightmare in Scarlet," "Media Blizzard," "The Return of Kaine," "Web of Carnage," "Blood Brothers," and finally, the big wrap-up in "Revelations."

NUMBER OF CASUALTIES DURING THE STORYLINE: Indeterminate.

A lot of characters, major and not so major, bit the dust during the Clone Storyline, and we'll probably never be able to accurately project precisely how many, due to the uncounted horde of Spider-Man, Jackal and Gwen Stacy clones that melted away during "Maximum Clonage," and the entire population of the town of Springfield, which was wiped out by the Jackal's virus bomb. As far as major, "name" characters, there were six: Aunt May, of course, in the tearjerker AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #400; the Grim Hunter and Doctor Octopus, both murdered by Kaine; Seward Trainer, killed by Norman Osborn; the Jackal, victim of his own master plan; and poor Ben Reilly himself, the victim of the Green Goblin's final revenge on Peter Parker. As for MJ's baby... her fate is uncertain.

NUMBER OF NEW CHARACTERS FROM THE "LOST YEARS" OF BEN REILLY: 5.

The unexplored past of Peter Parker's clone "brother" Ben Reilly proved a fertile source of new ongoing characters that played often major roles in the lives of both Spider-Men. A mysterious villain called Wild Whip was the first we met, followed by Ben's old flame Janine Godbe, obsessed detective Jacob Raven, Ben's once-trusted mentor (and unwitting pawn of Norman Osborn) Seward Trainer, and perhaps making the most impact, the prototype Parker clone called Kaine, who slew two of Spider-Man's deadliest foes in a misguided mission to save his "brother," Peter Parker.

NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO'VE DATED OR BEEN INVOLVED WITH BEN REILLY: 5.

Not bad for a genetic duplicate! Janine, of course, became his first great love during his five years on the road. When he hit New York, Mr. Reilly turned his attention to several other ladies: a neighbor named Gabrielle Greer, a mysterious raven-haired photography student named Jessica Carradine (who turned out to actually be the daughter of the burglar who killed Peter's Uncle Ben!), a snotty fashion design major named Desiree Winthrop, and even Peter's first girlfriend, Betty Brant!

MARVEL HEROES THAT GOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CLONE SAGA: 14 (INCLUDING 9 NEW WARRIORS).

The Clone Saga became very large in scope, drawing in a number of other super-powered crimefighters. Some were incidental, teaming up with the Ben Reilly Spider-Man against various non-clone-related menaces. These include the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, Luke Cage, Iron Fist, Gambit, and even Howard the Duck! Others played a more major role: Daredevil helped Peter Parker come "back from the edge," the Punisher was once again pitted against Spider-Man by his old employer the Jackal, Silver Sable and the Human Torch encountered the "new" Spider-Man early on and questioned him about his identity, the Black Cat was one of the first of Spider-Man's allies to learn of the existence of the clone, and the fledgling super team the New Warriors counted Ben Reilly among their ranks in his Scarlet Spider identity.

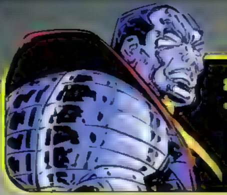
NUMBER OF PETER PARKER'S FOES ENCOUNTERED BY THE BEN REILLY SPIDEY: 21.

One of the more intriguing facets to the storyline was seeing how Ben Reilly reacted to some of Spider-Man's classic foes and to how some of them had changed over the years he was gone. His baptism of fire as the Scarlet Spider was against Venom, and this led to a string of conflicts against some of the heavy hitters of the wall-crawler's rogues gallery: Mysterio, Tombstone, Hammerhead, Molten Man, the Looter, the Scorpion, the Vulture, the Beetle, Boomerang, Shocker, Hobgoblin, Carnage, the Rhino, Alistair Smythe, Jack O' Lantern, the Sandman, Scorpia, Mendel Stromm (in his "Gaunt" identity), and of course, the two that made the biggest impact: the Jackal and the original Green Goblin, Norman Osborn.

Anyone I've left out? Any other statistic that should have been included here? Probably quite a few. Write in to VISION with your own tallies, Spider-Maniacs!

— Mark Bernardo

BEAST FILES

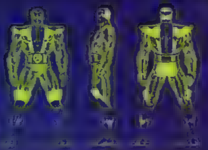


SUBJECT : COLOSSUS

"WHY, MAN, HE DOTH BESTRIDE THE NARROW WORLD,
LIKE A COLOSSUS; AND WE PETTY MEN
WALK UNDER HIS HUGE LEGS, AND PEEP ABOUT
TO FIND OURSELVES DISHONORABLE GRAVES.
MEN AT SOME TIME ARE MASTERS OF THEIR FATES. . . ."

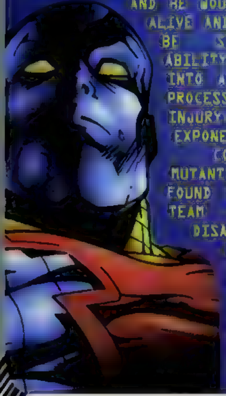
—SHAKESPEARE: JULIUS CAESAR

ON SCREEN: DATA ANALYSIS



THE CHILDREN OF THE RASPUTIN FAMILY ARE A LESSON IN POWER. THE YOUNGEST, ILLYANA RASPUTIN [SEE FILE: MAGIK], HAD THE ABILITY TO TRANSCEND TIME, SPACE AND EVEN DIMENSIONS THROUGH HER TELEPORTATION POWERS. THE ELDEST BROTHER, MIKHAIL [SEE FILE: MIKHAIL RASPUTIN], COULD SHAPE MATTER AND ENERGY TO HIS EVERY MAD WHIM. FINALLY, THE SIBLING IN THE CENTER WOULD REPRESENT SHEER PHYSICAL POWER AT ITS HEIGHT. THAT WOULD BE OUR OWN NEAR AND DEAR PIOTR NIKOLAIEVITCH; PETER TO YOU AND ME. THE WORLD AT LARGE, HOWEVER, KNOWS HIM BEST AS COLOSSUS.

HAD PIOTR HAD HIS WAY, HE WOULD LIKELY STILL BE TENDING FARM WITH HIS FAMILY AT THE UST-ORDYNSKI COLLECTIVE IN HIS NATIVE RUSSIA. HE WOULD STILL BE SPENDING HIS FREE TIME PAINTING BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART, AND HE WOULD STILL HAVE ALL OF HIS FAMILY ALIVE AND WELL AROUND HIM. FATE WOULD NOT BE SO KIND. PIOTR HAD THE ABILITY TO CONVERT HIS ENTIRE PHYSIQUE INTO A FORM OF ORGANIC METAL. IN THE PROCESS, HIS ENDURANCE, RESISTANCE TO INJURY, SPEED AND STRENGTH ALL INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY.



COLOSSUS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST MUTANTS CONTACTED WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER FOUND HIMSELF IN DIRE NEED OF A NEW TEAM OF X-MEN TO INVESTIGATE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ORIGINAL TEAM [SEE FILE: KRAKOA]. HE JOINED THE X-MEN AND REMAINED A CORNERSTONE MEMBER FOR NUMEROUS YEARS. THERE WAS EVEN A BRIEF FLIRTATIOUS LOVE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE YOUNG KITTY PRYDE [SEE FILE: SHADOWCAT/SPRITE].

ON SCREEN: SUBJECT PROFILE

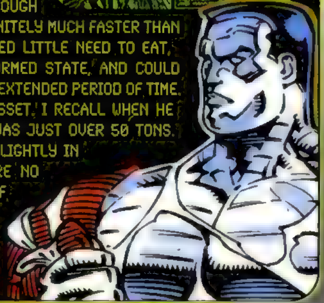
THEN TRAGEDY STRUCK. FIRST, COLOSSUS WAS FORCED TO KILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SELF-DEFENSE [SEE FILE: PROTEUS/ MOIRA MACTAGGERT]. THIS QUICKLY MARKED A TURNING POINT IN HIS OUTLOOK ON LIFE. YEARS PASSED. ON A MISSION WITH HIS FELLOW X-MEN, HE WAS REUNITED WITH HIS BROTHER MIKHAIL WHO HAD BEEN PRESUMED DEAD. SHORTLY AFTER THEIR REUNION, COLOSSUS LEARNED THAT HIS BROTHER, WHOM HE LOOKED UP TO, WAS COMPLETELY INSANE.

A SHORT TIME LATER, ILLYANA WOULD BE THE FIRST VICTIM TO DIE OF THE LEGACY VIRUS [SEE APPENDIX: LEGACY VIRUS; SEE FILE: STRYFE]. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, COLOSSUS WAS NOT THERE WHEN SHE DIED. IN FACT, HE SUSTAINED AN INJURY WHICH WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO TRANSFORM INTO HIS HUMAN FORM. PETER FELT AS IF HE HAD FAILED ILLYANA. NOT EVEN ILLYANA'S FUNERAL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED IN PEACE. MIDWAY THROUGH THE SERVICE, MAGNETO [SEE FILE: MAGNETO] DROPPED IN. MAGNUS OFFERED THE X-MEN THE CHOICE TO JOIN HIM AND THE REST OF HIS ACOLYTES ON AVALON [SEE FILES: ASTEROID M/GRAYMALKIN/AVALON]. MUCH TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, COLOSSUS ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION. PETER BLAMED XAVIER FOR ILLYANA'S DEATH. HE FELT THAT IF XAVIER'S DREAM HAD FAILED HIM, PERHAPS MAGNETO'S WOULDN'T.

AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF AVALON, COLOSSUS BEGAN WANDERING AGAIN. HE FELT AS IF HE WAS WITHOUT A HOME OR PURPOSE. IT APPEARS THAT OUR SHINING COMPANION HAS DECIDED ONCE AGAIN TO FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS, AS HE HAS RECENTLY FOUND A HOME IN EXCALIBUR [SEE FILE: EXCALIBUR]. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT QUESTION IS: HOW STABLE WILL HIS REACTIONS REMAIN TOWARDS KITTY AND HER NEW LOVE INTEREST, PETE WISDOM? [NOTE: CREATE FILE ON WISDOM.]

NOTES

COLOSSUS IS A BEING OF PURE PHYSICAL POWER. TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY A COUPLE OCCASIONS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN HURT [SEE FILE: DEATHBIRD/ MORLOCKS], AND HE HAS BECOME VASTLY MORE RESILIENT SINCE THEN. HIS SPEED IS SOMETHING WHICH SHOCKS AND AMAZES ME TO THIS DAY. ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT EVER SO NIMBLE AS I... HE IS DEFINITELY MUCH FASTER THAN PEAK HUMAN NORMS. HE HAS DEMONSTRATED LITTLE NEED TO EAT, SLEEP, OR EVEN BREATHE IN HIS TRANSFORMED STATE, AND COULD QUITE POSSIBLY EXIST IN A VACUUM FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. HIS STRENGTH IS BY FAR HIS GREATEST ASSET. I RECALL WHEN HE FIRST JOINED, HIS MAXIMUM LIFT PRESS WAS JUST OVER 50 TONS. THESE DAYS I'VE OBSERVED HIM LIFTING SLIGHTLY IN EXCESS OF 100 TONS. TO DATE THERE ARE NO SIGNS AS TO WHETHER THIS IS HIS PEAK OR IF HE COULD POSSESS EVEN GREATER STRENGTH. WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE STRONGEST MUTANT ALIVE. LET US HOPE HIS PSYCHE CAN REMAIN AS STRONG.



MARVEL STUFF

KILLING TIME

It's a man's life in the Marvel Comics Creative Services department, and no one is more aware of this than art director Garry Black. Black oversees the creative development of licensed toys, making sure that such classic Marvel characters as Spider-Man, the X-Men, and numerous others are represented as accurately and true to the source material as possible. It's a tremendous responsibility, an awful lot of work, helping some of the nation's largest toy manufacturers create exciting products for the pint-sized youth of America, but Black is more than up to the task.

He's also more than up to the task of putting the other members of his department through the paces of play-testing. Each of the following toys was tested in the most rigorous and rugged fashion that Black could conjure, bearing in mind of course that without exception, no one in his department was rigorous or rugged.

THE SPIDER-MAN SPACE SHOOTER
(by Milton Bradley) tested by Garry Black
The Space Shooter is a truly fun toy, a battery-powered device that shoots safe, soft foam discs a good distance at those who are unfortunate enough to be in front of it at the time shooting commences. Black (see photo at right) clearly enjoyed his experience with the Space Shooter. "There's nothing like the feeling of unloading a round of foam discs at someone. What power," said Black. This is certainly borne out by the look on his face and the experienced firing posture that says, "Now I know what you're thinking. Did he fire six shots or only five...?"

THE SPIDER-MAN 3-D BOARD GAME
(by Milton Bradley) tested by Steve Behling
Half of the fun of this game is putting the thing together. It's rather simple—so simple, in fact, that an editor like myself or a five-year-old could assemble it (and if you have a five-year-old, I strongly suggest you let him do it). The other half of the fun is using the cardboard dice shooter to obliterate the various super-villains you've placed oh-so-carefully on the board (nicely illustrated by Spider-Man artist Steven Butler). I of course couldn't quite get the hang of the dice shooter, and was ridiculed by my peers.

VENOM TOOTHBRUSH
(by MAS Brands, LTD.)
tested by Mike Thomas
Oral hygiene is an important part of everyone's daily routine, even someone like Thomas, head honcho of Creative Services. Glance quickly at the right, and you'll bear witness to Thomas using the beyond-cool Venom toothbrush to brighten his pearly whites. "Yep," said Thomas, in a comment that frankly left us baffled. The kicker with this line of toothbrushes (which includes Spidey, Hulk, Iron Man, and the Silver Surfer) is that the handle is really a bendie figure, so you can create scenarios using your favorite Marvel characters. For example, Thomas created the scenario that Venom brushed his teeth.

SPIDER-MAN & WOLVERINE AWESOME ARMS (by Zima Products, LTD.)
tested by John Conroy & Rob LaQuinta
At last, a product that answers the vexed question, "What if I had the right forearm and hand of Spider-Man or Wolverine?" Ask no more. Both coordinator Conroy and art director LaQuinta squared off against one another with their Awesome Arms. "When I put on the Wolverine Awesome Arm," said LaQuinta, "I get in touch with my primitive side." Responded Conroy, "Although I'm not afraid of his primitive side, I just don't want to be near him when he gets 'in touch' with *anything*." It seemed at one point that Conroy would take out his opponent with his Arm's web-firing action, but LaQuinta countered with his Arm's claws. Who was the winner? They were *both* winners. (I say this less out of fairness than an overriding desire to keep my teeth.)

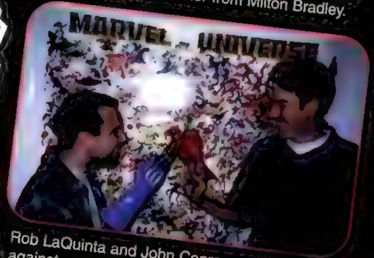
SPIDER-MAN & X-MEN BOP BAGS
The Bop Bags, which look great and are a good way of relieving pent up aggression, were unavailable for testing. In their place, we used each other as punching bags, which proved rather painful and not at all a good substitute for the superior Bop Bags.

What did we learn from our arduous hours of play-testing? We learned about good sportsmanship; good oral hygiene; how to shoot small flying foam discs; how to evade small flying foam discs; and most important of all, we learned that these great products are available at a toy store near you.

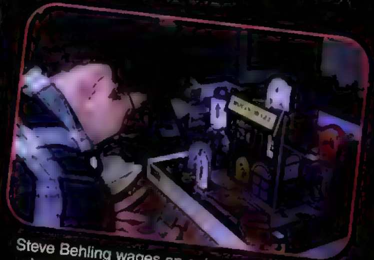
—Steve Behling

Mike Thomas wages an epic war against gingivitis with the Venom toothbrush from MAS Brands.

Garry Black wages an epic war against the human race with the Space Shooter from Milton Bradley.



Rob LaQuinta and John Conroy wage an epic war against each other with their Awesome Arms from Zima Products.



Steve Behling wages an epic war against small pieces of cardboard with the Spider-Man 3-D board game from Milton Bradley.

THE SCOTT LOBDELL INTERVIEW

Two years ago, Marvel Comics' readers were introduced to an all new team of heroes, the young mutants who comprise the student body at Emma Frost's Massachusetts Academy. They were all-new and uniquely different, mutants who couldn't fit in with normal society as easily as their predecessors in the X-Men, and their names reflected that fact: Husk, Chamber, M, Penance, Skin, Mondo. With the X-MEN'S Jubilee thrown into the mix, the school was up and running under the tutelage of Sean Cassidy, a.k.a. Banshee, and Emma Frost herself, the former White Queen of perennial X-Men baddies the Hellfire Club.

In that time, they have experienced more than anybody their age should have to go through, including leading finite existences in an alternate timeline created after Professor Charles Xavier was accidentally murdered in the past. When writer Scott Lobdell titled GENERATION X, perhaps he knew that it was the appropriate title for this strange, new breed of mutant.

Now, two years later, readers of GEN X, as it has been come to be called by its fans, should expect some big shake-ups to occur in the titles twenty-fifth issue. Selfsame writer Lobdell was on hand to reveal some of the wacky goings-on.

"X-Men villain Black Tom Cassidy engages his cousin, Sean, in the mother of all custody battles for the Gen X kids. Black Tom's reasoning comes from this warped perception that Sean stole Siryn (member of X-Force and formerly Black Tom's ward) from him.. Ironically, Banshee was only taking back his own daughter as it turned out." Scott said.

"We're going to see a Black Tom that we've never encountered. previously. Tom has gone completely over the edge due to experiments that he performed on his body to enhance his mutant abilities during the course of the first DEADPOOL limited series. Now Banshee and his charges have to contend with that.

"The story also discloses the second to the final fate of Mondo — the mutant-hating Bastion is directly involved in that. He's not only causing problems for the X-Men. And finally, after twenty-five issues, we get to see the character of Penance cut loose so that fans can get a first glimpse of the power that is literally at her fingertips. Something untoward happens to Jubilee that'll affect GENERATION X, X-MEN, and UNCANNY while events in the issue force Chamber and M into a situation where they'll work very closely together in the next issue.

GENERATION X

"By the end of the issue, there will be fewer members of the team. GENERATION X has been fairly insulated as far as X-titles go, mainly because when Chris [Bachalo] and I were starting the book, we decided that it would be offbeat from the start. But after awhile, the fans got a little antsy because the book wasn't heavily action-oriented. We think that this issue will surprise a lot of fans who have gotten used to the book the way it is.

X-MAN

THE TERRY KAVANAGH INTERVIEW

Borne from the alternate timeline created in the wake of the popular "Age of Apocalypse" series, the young psi known as Nate Grey has had a bumpy ride since making the jump over to a timestream that isn't enslaved by the evil mutant Apocalypse. As if coming from an alternate reality weren't a heavy enough bag to carry, Nate is possibly the most powerful telepath to ever walk the planet and that makes him a living timebomb that's ticking down to an uncertain fate. Just ask Cable, his counterpart from this reality! Nate's problems have been explored in previous issues, but according to writer Terry Kavanagh, issue #25 is a milestone in the life of the mutant known as X-Man.

"The issue is the effective culmination of the Madelyne Pryor storyline, one that has been building since the book first started." Terry added. "When Madelyne rises to power and starts to realize her full potential, basically all you know what breaks loose."

Asked what fans can look forward to in the double-sized issue, Terry continued, "Expect a knock-down drag-out three-way fight between Nate, Madelyne, and Jean Grey, who guest stars. The story essentially asks what is nature and, in turn, each of the players must question his or her role in it. Nate asks himself what is the nature of his power, while Madelyne must ask herself what is the nature of her own existence. "It particularly has resonances to the origin of Onslaught. If readers recall, Onslaught arose out of a psychic synthesis between Professor Charles Xavier and Magneto. Neither ever intended for it to happen. Now, in the case of Madelyne, Nate has done the same thing. It makes him consider the nature of his own power and it scares him.

"Previous to this issue, Nate has been in New York City with the woman known as Threnody, while Madelyne has been taken under the wing of the mutant vampire Selene. With the return of Sebastian Shaw and the reforming of the Hellfire Club's Inner Circle, Selene had enormous plans for Madelyne. She

intended to use Madelyne as an offering to the Circle, a Black Rook. it all backfired when Madelyne gained power and became the new Black Queen. Now, she's haywire.

"Expect cameos from Cyclops, Mr. Sinister, Cable, Havok, and Mother Sanctity of the Askani. Threnody is effectively put out of the picture by Madelyne and as the latter tries to figure out what she really is, it brings her into conflict with the X-Men's Jean Grey. X-MAN #25 is the issue you don't want to miss."

THE CHRIS BACHALO INTERVIEW

Twenty-five issues later and penciler Chris Bachalo is as fresh-faced as ever regarding the characters of GENERATION X . Emma Frost's Massachusetts Academy is where the young team of mutants have chosen to hone their abilities under the teachings of former the X-Man, the mutant called Banshee and it is the location that Chris's pencil delineates most frequently. Speaking to him could give one the impression that events in the double-sized twenty-fifth issue x-travaganza could have a major impact on Jubilee, M, Skin, Husk, Chamber, Penance, Mondo, and...

Of said issue, Chris himself said, "For the past two years, Scott [Lobdell]and I have been having loads of fun doing cool, hip, and trendy stories, but its really cool to do a knock-down drag out, no holds barred action issue."

And if Chris's enthusiasm is any indication, that is exactly what fans will get lots of.Chris continued, "Expect something similar to what we did in GENERATION NEXT (the hit series within a series that threw the cast into an alternate timeline) -- a darker take on the characters' personalities, coupled with an exciting storyline. it involves

Black Tom Cassidy returning and trying to get back at his brother, Banshee, by effectively taking over and running the school.

"I was really inspired by what Scott had done with Black Tom in the plot and I think X-fans will like my new visual take on the character. he's been transformed into this mythic, near-godlike wood creature of immense power. The entire team will get a run for their money.

"This issue is also a significant turning point for the cast of characters -- actually, we're doing some house cleaning...you know, move some of the characters along. For awhile the book was becoming sort of like the Legion of Super-Heroes or something with everyone that was running around. Scott and I want to focus our attention on the main players.

"I also get to draw some cool guest stars, including Howard the Duck, Tana Nile, and the Man-Thing, which will be great since MAN-THING was the first Marvel comic that I ever read."

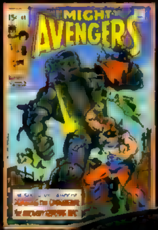
GENERATION X #25 and X-MAN #25 count as the definite events in the lives of these children of the atom.. Don't miss this double-sized issues on sale in January!

-- Karl Bollers

If you're still reading this, you're just the kind of thrill-seeking lunatic we're looking for. Because that's what it takes to play 2 Xtreme. The most insanely extreme game we could possibly throw your way. Whether you choose in-line skating in Las Vegas, mountain biking in Africa, snowboarding in Japan or skateboarding in L.A., your threshold for pain will be pushed to the point of unconsciousness as you punch and kick your way to the finish line. It has 12 tracks and a bunch of new maneuvers like 360s, ollie-airs, carves, backside rail grabs, Japans and more. You can grab Power Ups along the way, which help you to really pump up your point totals. You can play alone or against another person, with an all-new point system which allows you to compete in a season and earn points based on finish, maneuvers and how many opponents you knock down along the way. You just have to ask yourself one question. How crazy are you?

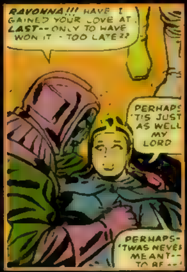
Always wear a helmet and safety gear when you in-line skate. Do not attempt this trick at home. For game hints call 1-900-933-SONY (7669). The charge is $0.95 per minute. Callers under the age of 18 must get parental permission to call. Touch-tone phone is required. Available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. U.S. only. The Sony Computer Entertainment logo is a trademark of Sony Corporation. PlayStation and the PlayStation logos are trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. U R NOT E is a trademark of Sony Interactive Entertainment Inc. © 1996 Sony Interactive Entertainment Inc. 2 Xtreme developed by Sony Interactive Studios America. www.sony.com.

marvel chronicles 10



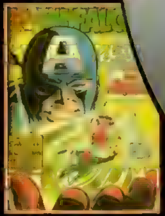
Stan Lee, amazingly, scripted virtually all of Marvel's super hero books in the early and mid-1960s. Equally astonishing was that he found another writer just as prolific to take over writing many of those series as Stan's editorial responsibilities grew. Roy Thomas became the first major Marvel writer who had started out as a Marvel fan.

Thomas's premier assignment was THE AVENGERS. When we last left them, the Wasp had inexplicably agreed to wed a masked man named Yellowjacket who claimed to have disposed of her missing boyfriend, Henry Pym! With no way to prove foul play, the Avengers went along with the wedding, reminiscent of Reed and Sue Richards's wedding. Proving just how hard it was to get good help those days, the caterers turned out to be the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! In the ensuing fray, Yellowjacket turned out to be Henry Pym, who had developed a temporary case of Multiple Personality Disorder, a result of exposure to a strange gas! The Wasp had known all along that Yellowjacket was Pym, but decided that if he would only propose to her as Yellowjacket, she should take advantage of the opportunity. Some might say Jan was being manipulative but once he had regained his true personality, Hank was glad they were married. Years later this incident would prove to have been the first step towards his mental breakdown.



This was merely the start of an exciting year for THE AVENGERS! Having decided to retain his new Yellowjacket guise, Pym gave Hawkeye his size-changing formula, thereby making him the new Goliath. The virtually indestructible metal adamantium first turned up in issue #66, along with its inventor, Dr. Myron MacLain, as the evil robot Ultron reconstructed himself in an adamantium body.

Issue #69 marked the beginning of a landmark epic. The Avengers' archenemy from the future, Kang the Conqueror, was desperate to revive his true love, the Princess Ravonna, who had been left on the brink of death back in issue #24. The alien Grandmaster, an obsessive gambler, making his first appearance, offered to grant Kang temporary power over life and death if the Conqueror could defeat him in a contest. Kang forced the Avengers to serve as his champions.



As their first team of opponents, the Grandmaster brought together the Squadron Sinister, a band of costumed villains based on familiar super-heroic archetypes: later stories would reveal them to be evil counterparts of the Squadron Supreme, the greatest heroes of an alternate Earth. As if this were not enough, when the "game" took three Avengers back to 1942 Paris, they had to battle Captain America, the original Human Torch, and the Sub-Mariner as they were back then: in effect, this was the first appearance of Marvel's wartime team, the Invaders. Thanks to the Avengers, Kang won the game, but he chose to use his new power of life and death, which he could utilize only once, to kill the Avengers rather than revive Ravonna. The new Black Knight saved the Avengers and was rewarded with admission to their ranks. As for Ravonna, we would learn decades later that the Grandmaster secretly revived her and told her of Kang's

betrayal, leading her to become the conqueror's most implacable enemy.

Some of Thomas's best work of the year were his collaborations with artist Gene Colan on the DOCTOR STRANGE series. Strange has always won devoted fans but unfortunately, never enough of them to keep his comic going permanently. And so, only a year after it began, the first DOCTOR STRANGE series came to an end. The final issue, #189, inaugurated an intriguing new storyline concerning the Undying Ones. These mysterious otherdimensional creatures were clearly inspired by the classic short stories of fantasy writer H. P. Lovecraft. Thomas would be forced to finish this serial in other Marvel series in the coming year.

Doctor Strange's colleague from STRANGE TALES, Nick Fury, fared no better in his new series, which was canceled with issue #15. Even Fury himself got "canceled": in his farewell issue he was apparently assassinated by a HYDRA gunman named Bull's-Eye (no relation to Daredevil's later opponent). Of course, appearances were deceiving here, as readers would learn in another year.

Stan Lee had by now returned to THE INCREDIBLE HULK and so on resurrected the Green Goliath's greatest enemy, the Leader. Shortly afterwards, Thomas succeeded Stan on this series, too, and startled readers by curing Bruce Banner for the first time. Now Banner could not only change into the Hulk at will, but maintained his normal intelligence and personality in his monstrous form. Confident that happiness could at last be his, Banner was finally about to wed Betty Ross in her childhood home. But the Leader and his flunky, the Rhino, wrecked his hopes by firing a gamma ray blast at Banner during the wedding ceremony. As a result Banner reverted to the savage Hulk and demolished the house in the ensuing battle. It would take nearly two more decades for the wedding to take place.

Stan Lee wound up his long run on DAREDEVIL and once again, Roy Thomas took over the writing reins. Partnered with artist Gene Colan, they introduced the first Marvel character to be named Death's Head: a spectral masked rider who proved to be the father of Daredevil's longtime love interest, Karen Page. Dr. Paxton Page had been driven mad by exposure to radiation in his research. After Dr. Page died, Daredevil finally revealed to Karen that he was really her former boss, the blind attorney Matt Murdock, in issue #57.

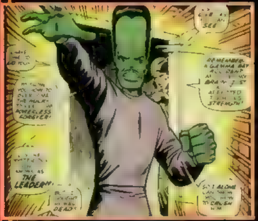
Thomas was not the only valuable addition to Marvel's growing ranks of writers. Newly arrived at Marvel, Archie Goodwin introduced Iron Man to one of his principal villains, the Controller, in issue #12. Five issues later, Goodwin unveiled one of Iron Man's most eccentric and dangerous foes, Mordecai Midas, a multimillionaire who dressed as if he lived in ancient Greece and was too obese to walk. Midas employed an acrobatic agent named Madame Masque, who proved to be Iron Man's adversary Whitney Frost [See last issue. —Tim], her face terribly scarred behind the mask she now wore. She now fell in love with Stark, with consequences that would reverberate for decades to come. As for Stark, he underwent experimental surgery that repaired his damaged heart with synthetic tissue, at last freeing him from the greatest threat to his and Iron Man's life.

It was a year of constant change for the original CAPTAIN MARVEL, as Marvel writers grappled with the dilemma of making this new series work. In issue #17, Roy Thomas and Gil Kane came up

1969

1969

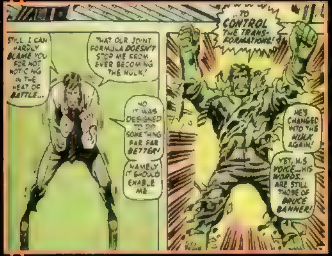
with the concept for Mar-Vell that would last. He was bonded to teenager Rick Jones in such a way that when one was on Earth, the other was trapped in the otherdimensional Negative Zone. By striking together the Kree nega-bands they wore on their wrists, they could change places. Thomas and Kane had thus concocted an interesting variation on the Golden Age Captain Marvel, who could switch between the forms of a boy and a super-powered adult.



So, you may ask, just what was Stan Lee doing all this time? Plenty! For one thing, he and John Buscema continued their memorable collaboration on THE SILVER SURFER, pitting the Surfer in combat against Thor in issue #4 and raising the ghost of the Flying Dutchman to serve as Mephisto's pawn in issues #s 8 and 9.

Stan Lee teamed with Jim Steranko on a classic trilogy of CAPTAIN AMERICA issues in which Rick Jones donned the costume of Cap's wartime partner Bucky and fought alongside him against a new villain, Madame Hydra, known today as the Viper. Lee then collaborated with artist Gene Colan on the next epic-length storyline in which the Red Skull recovered the virtually all-powerful Cosmic Cube and used it to switch bodies with Cap. Trapped in his enemy's body, Cap was on the run from the law until he—and Lee and Colan—remembered that the Skull's grotesque visage was only a mask and took it off! (That trick wouldn't work today; now the Skull's head really does look like a red skull!)

Hiding out on an island in issue #117, Cap encountered Sam Wilson, who had an uncanny rapport with his trained falcon Redwing. Under Cap's guidance Sam became his new costumed partner, the Falcon! The Captain regained his true body, of course, and the Cube melted into nothingness—for the time being.



In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, Stan Lee and John Romita Sr. introduced another major Spider-Man adversary in issue #73: Silvermane, the elderly but still dangerously cunning leader in the crime syndicate known as the Maggia, along with this Maggia cohorts, lawyer Caesar Cicero and enforcer Man-Mountain Marko.

Issue #78 saw the introduction of Hobie Brown, an inventor who hoped to make himself into a hero by committing a theft in his costumed identity of the Prowler and then returning the property in his true guise. Hobie's plan went awry, but the Prowler ended up as another of Marvel's growing number of African-American super heroes.

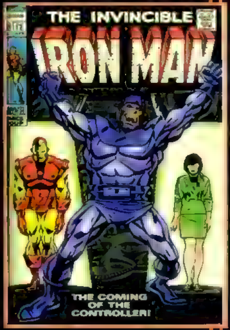
Stan Lee and Jack Kirby continued to astonish readers of THOR, first with a war in space pitting Thor and Ego the Living Planet against Galactus, and then by driving Thor into "warrior madness" in his battle against the artificially created humanoid

then known only as "Him," who would one day take on the name Adam Warlock.

1969 brought with it the last two great Lee and Kirby FANTASTIC FOUR multi-part epics, each of which paid homage in part to a classic 1960s TV series. In the first, running from FF #84 through #87, the Fantastic Four found themselves in a village in Doctor Doom's kingdom of Latveria. The surroundings were charming and the villagers seemingly friendly, but the FF knew they were now held captive there by Doom and his futuristic technology—much like Number Six in "The Prisoner."

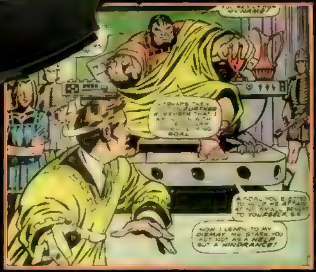
Shortly afterwards, in issues #90 through 93, Lee and Kirby tipped their hats to gladiator movies, gangster movies, and even an episode of "Star Trek" in a new serial in which the Thing was captured by a Skrull slave master to serve as a gladiator in games held on one of the Skrulls' distant planets. Strangely, the shape-changing Skrulls of the world on which Ben found himself had adopted the forms of Prohibition-era Earth gangsters!

Perhaps the most significant events of the year, though, occurred in THE X-MEN. This book continued its back-up series recounting the original members' origins, but more importantly, Roy Thomas joined forces with penciler Neal Adams and inker Tom Palmer to create the most visually spectacular adventures in THE X-MEN's original run. It began with issue #56. Scott Summers' long-lost brother Alex, introduced two issues previously, was held captive in Egypt by the man calling himself the Living Pharaoh. The Pharaoh was a mutant who could only achieve his full power if he cut Alex off from the cosmic rays that gave him his mutant powers. Finally, the Pharaoh succeeded, transforming himself into the colossal, stone-like Living Monolith.



No sooner was the Monolith defeated than the X-Men faced a newly constructed squadron of Sentinels, perhaps the most formidable version they have confronted before or since. In this saga, Alex Summers first adopted his costumed identity of Havok and met his future girlfriend Lorna Dane.

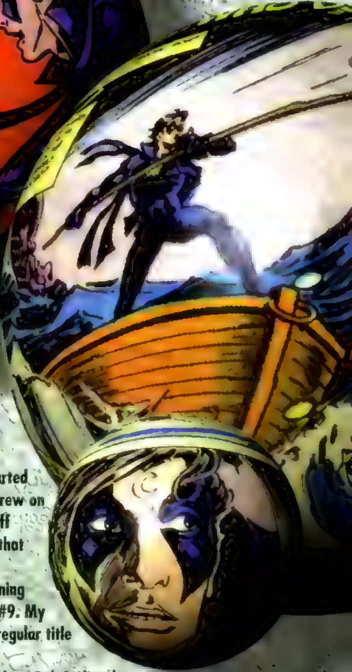
Each succeeding X-MEN story swept the team to a new location, and so they journeyed to the Antarctic on the trail of their new nemesis, Karl Lykos, a man whose vampiric absorption of mutant energy transformed him into the bizarre were-pterodactyl Sauron. From there the X-Men traveled back to Ka-Zar's Savage Land, where they found Magneto and his sinister new creations, the Savage Land Mutates.



Up until now THE X-MEN had been considered one of Marvel's second-rung series. But under Thomas, Adams, and Palmer THE X-MEN stood revealed as a cutting edge series, replete with potential for greatness. These stories showed the way for the age of the "new" X-Men that would begin six years hence.

By PETER SANDERSON

Mark Bagley, whose run on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is one of the longest in Spider-Man's history, begun working at Marvel with stints on such books as NEW WARRIORS and STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI. His work can currently be seen on the MARVEL ONLINE site in the Spider-Man Cybercomic as well as the upcoming STAR TREK: MIRROR MIRROR Special and THE THUNDERBOLTS.



MARK BAGLEY

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST MARVEL COMIC?

"The first story I can remember is from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31-33. It was this story in which this mysterious villain known only as the Master Planner, who had an underwater headquarters, stole a radioactive isotope. While Spider-Man was fighting the Master Planner's minions, Peter Parker's Aunt May was getting sicker and sicker.

We later learned that when Parker, who is Spider-Man's alter ego, gave her a blood transfusion months before, his blood, surging with the bite of a radioactive spider, gave her radiation poisoning.

"His aunt finally collapsed and the doctors discovered what's wrong with her. It then came down to Spider-Man's tracking down the isotope that was stolen. Eventually he discovered the Master Planner is really Doctor Octopus. Spider-Man stole back the isotope so Dr. Connors (who had been the LIZARD) can create an antidote for Aunt May before she might have died.

"This story had one of the great scenes of all time. Spider-Man was trapped under all kinds of machinery, with the radioactive isotope to save his aunt just inches away. It takes him five excruciating pages to find the strength to get free. It's amazing!

"My first work in comics came as the result of winning the MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK competition. That story is still yet to be printed. My first assignment that saw print was on a book called NIGHTMASK which was part of the New Universe Marvel stuff. I was inked by Ernie Chan so it really doesn't look at all like how I draw now.

"I started and drew on and off with that book beginning with #9. My first regular title was something Bob Budiansky gave me...

VISIONARIES."

—As told to Jim Krueger

HEROES

ON SALE FEBUARY 5

CODE OF HONOR NO.3 (OF 4)
CHUCK DIXON/BOB WAKELIN
CONTINUING THE FULLY- PAINTED LOOK AT THE MODERN MARVEL UNIVERSE! WHAT HAPPENS TO NEW YORK CITY WHEN A BUNCH OF HEROES DISAPPEAR TO GO FIGHT IN A SECRET WAR? IT GETS OVER RUN BY VILLAINS LIKE ELEKTRO AND THE JUGGERNAUT, THAT'S WHAT! NOW IT'S UP TO POLICE OFFICER JEFF PIPER TO PLAY HERO!

DAREDEVIL NO.363
KARL KESEL/GENE COLAN/CAM SMITH
FEATURING GUEST-ART BY CLASSIC DD PENCILER, GENE COLAN! DAREDEVIL GOES SLEEPLESS IN NEW YORK WHEN HE PULLS AN ALL-NIGHTER TO STOP THE NEW VILLAINESS NAMED INSOMNIA! PLUS: RAZOR SHARPE MANIPULATES FOGGY INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH...MATT MURDOCK'S GIRL-FRIEND, KAREN PAGE! "IT'S BECOME ONE OF THE BEST SUPER HERO READS OUT THERE. IT'S EXTREMELY READER-FRIENDLY, ESPECIALLY FOR NEW READERS." (WIZARD)

FANTASTIC FOUR NO.6
JIM LEE & BRANDON CHOI/JIM LEE/ SCOTT WILLIAMS
"INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION" PROLOGUE! SPECIAL LEAD-IN TO THE HEROES REBORN CROSSOVER! WHAT DO THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE TO PLAY WITH THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AVENGERS? FIND OUT HERE! "WITH PARTNER BRANDON CHOI, JIM LEE HAS TAKEN THE FF BACK INTO THE COSMIC SPOTLIGHT...THEY'VE BEEN REVAMPED, UPDATED, GIVEN A FRESH COAT OF PAINT AND DON'T THEY LOOK GOOD...WE'RE HOOKED." (OVERSTREET FAN)

MARVEL VALENTINE'S SPECIAL
MARK WAID, TOM DEFALCO & TOM PEYER/TBD
MARVEL CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY WITH AN ALL-NEW SPECIAL! NO FRILLY LACE AND GUSHY PROSE HERE, TIGER! IT'S 48 PAGES OF TWO-FISTED ROMANCE ALA MARVEL! CELEBRATE CUPID'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY WITH ALL-NEW TALES OF LOVE AND LOSS STARRING SPIDER-MAN, CYCLOPS & PHOENIX, THE HULK AND MANY MORE!

ON SALE FEBUARY 12

AVENGERS NO.6
ROB LIEFELD & JEPH LOEB/CHAP YAEP/JONATHAN SIBAL
"INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION" PART 1 OF 2
THE HEROES REBORN CROSSOVER STARTS HERE! THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES IS FOREVER ALTERED AND YOU CAN BLAME IT ALL ON IRON MAN AND THE SAVAGE HULK! CONTINUED IN IRON MAN #6!

GHOST RIDER NO.84
IVAN VELEZ JR./POP MHAN/JOHN LOWE
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE CORPSE OF BARBARA KETCH LEADS DANNY, THE PHYSICAL HOST OF THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, INTO A FIGHT WITH GHOST RIDER?! HOW CAN THE FLAMING ONE FIGHT HIS OTHER SELF? FIND OUT AS THE SCARECROW AND THE DAUGHTER OF DRACULA JOIN THE BONE CRUNCHING FUN!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY NO.508
TOM DEFALCO/DEODATO STUDIOS
THE LOST GODS GAIN A NEW MEMBER AS THEY PREPARE TO STORM THE DIMENSION OF THE MASTER VILLAIN BEHIND THE MADNESS. WAITING FOR THEM ON THE OTHER SIDE: A RESURRECTED ALLY WHO NOW WORKS FOR THE ENEMY!

MARVEL ADVENTURES NO.1
STARRING THE HULK
RALPH MACCHIO/ANDY KUHN/ROB STULL
FIRST ROCK 'EM, SOCK 'EM ISSUE! THIS ONGOING TITLE PRESENTS ALL-NEW STORIES STARRING A ROTATING CAST OF MARVEL SUPER STARS, WITH THE PREMIERE ISSUE SPOTLIGHTING THE HULK! FANS OF THE HULK ANIMATED SERIES WILL GO WILD, WHILE OLDER READERS WHO MISS THE CLASSIC, SAVAGE HULK WILL HAVE A BALL WITH THIS ONE TOO!

ON SALE FEBUARY 19

THE INCREDIBLE HULK NO.452
PETER DAVID/MIKE DEODATO JR./TOM WEGRZYN
THE HULK'S TAKEN OVER AN ENTIRE ISLAND, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY THING STANDING IN THE WAY OF HIS LONG SOUGHT AFTER PEACE IS-HIMSELF?!
(BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE HULK IN DEADPOOL #4!)

IRON MAN NO.6
JIM LEE & SCOTT LOBDELL/WHILCE PORTACIO/SCOTT WILLIAMS
"INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION" PART 2 OF 2
CONCLUDING THE HEROES REBORN CROSSOVER! WILL IRON MAN JOIN THE AVENGERS OR TEAR THEM APART?! MAYBE THE HULK CAN ANSWER THAT! FOLLOW THE FALL-OUT INTO CAPTAIN AMERICA #6!

PUNISHER NO.18
JOHN OSTRANDER/TOM LYLE/ROBERT JONES
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? IS THE MYSTERIOUS, AMNESIAC STRANGER LIVING IN AN ABANDONED CHURCH IN ALPHABET CITY REALLY FRANK CASTLE? AND IF IT IS, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN-OR IF HIS MEMORY RETURNS? WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT BETTER BE QUICK, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS CLOSING IN! THE BUILD UP TO PUNISHER #25 KICKS OFF HERE!

THUNDERBOLTS NO.1
KURT BUSIEK/MARKBAGLEY/ VINCE RUSSELL
FROM THE ASHES OF THE ONSLAUGHT RISES A NEW SUPER TEAM! THE ENIGMATIC CITIZEN V! THE MAGNIFICENT METEORITE! TECHNO, THE GADGET GENIUS! THE SCINTILLATING SONGBIRD! THE GIANT-SIZED ATLAS! MACH-1, HUMAN FIGHTER PLANE! IN A WORLD WITHOUT HEROES, A SQUAD OF COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTERS STEPS FORWARD TO CHALLENGE EVIL! BUT CAN A GROUP OF ROOKIES WITH A SHOCKING SECRET HOPE TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS? THE WRECKING CREW INTENDS TO MAKE THAT ANSWER PAINFULLY OBVIOUS! IN THIS 48-PAGE DEBUT ISSUE, KURT BUSIEK (UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN) AND MARK BAGLEY (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) UNITE TO USHER IN A NEW ERA OF ACTION AND SUSPENSE IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER! (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 22 FOR A PREVIEW OF THUNDERBOLTS.)

ON SALE FEBUARY 26

2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW NO.8
BEN RAAB & JOE KELLY/JASON ARMSTRONG & DAVID BREWER/JAIME MENDOZA & ROB HUNTER
IN THE WAKE OF THE PHALANX INVASION, CHANGE IS AFOOT FOR MARVEL'S FUTUREVERSE! THE X-MEN'S CEREBRA MAKES A DECISION THAT WILL AFFECT THE FATE OF THE WORLD! SPIDEY MAKES A VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF WAKANDA! PLUS: DOOM NO MORE?!

ON SALE FEBUARY 26 CONT.

CAPTAIN AMERICA NO.6

ROB LIEFELD & JEPH LOEB/ROB LIEFELD/JONATHAN SIBAL
"INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION" EPILOGUE
THE COMING OF CABLE! THE ENIGMATIC LEADER OF X-FORCE ACCIDENTALLY BREACHES THE HEROES REBORN UNIVERSE! BRACE YOURSELVES AS THE SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE COLLIDES WITH THE SUPER SOLDIER OF WWII!

ELEKTRA NO.6

PETER MILLIGAN/MIKE DEODATO JR.
BLOOD, DEATH, REVENGE AND MADNESS-WHO SAYS MODERN DANCE IS DULL?! WHILE ELEKTRA OPENS HER OFF-BROADWAY SHOW, THE BEING KNOWN AS ARCHITECT, STUNG BY ELEKTRA'S REFUSAL TO ASSASSINATE HIM, BRINGS THE CURTAIN UP ON HIS OWN EVEN MORE SAVAGE PERFORMANCE!

MARVEL VISION NO.17

MARVEL VISION IS YOUR BACKSTAGE PASS TO THE ENTIRE MARVEL UNIVERSE! THIS 64-PAGE, FULL-COLOR ISSUE FEATURES A MEPHISTO "TIME SLIP" BY MIKE MIGNOLA, AN INTERVIEW WITH PASQUAL FERRY, A SNEAK PEEK AT THE UPCOMING BLADE FEATURE FILM, AND MORE !

SILVER SURFER NO.127

J.M. DEMATTEIS/RON GARNEY/BOB WIACEK
THE SURFER CONTINUES HIS QUEST FOR HIS LOST HUMANITY BY SEEKING OUT BLIND SCULPTRESS ALICIA MASTERS. DOES SHE HAVE THE ANSWERS, OR IS HER FATHER, THE PUPPET MASTER, JUST PULLING HIS STRINGS? IF YOU LIKED RON GARNEY'S ART ON CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU'LL LOVE HIS STUFF ON SILVER SURFER!

THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF CAPTAIN MARVEL NO.1 (OF 3)

TOM BREVOORT & MIKE KANTEROVICH/ SCOTT KOLINS/JOHN LOWE
AN ALL-NEW SAGA OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE LEGENDARY CAPTAIN MARVEL! A FAMOUS KREE MILITARY HERO HAS DISAPPEARED INTO THE DEADLY BROOD GALAXY, AND LEADING THE MISSION TO RESCUE HIM IS A YOUNG, IDEALISTIC SOLDIER NAMED MAR-VELL! BUT OTHERS HAVE DESIGNS ON THE MISSING KREE, NAMELY THE SKRULLS AND THE SHI'AR! PLUS: AN EARLY APPEARANCE OF THE SILVER SURFER-STILL THE HERALD OF GALACTUS! IF YOU CRAVE GOOD OLD FASHIONED MARVEL ACTION, BUT ALSO DEMAND TIES TO CURRENT CONTINUITY, THEN THIS IS THE LIMITED SERIES FOR YOU!

HEY HEROES, CHECK OUT THE ALL-NEW MARVEL WEBSITE AT WWW.MARVELONLINE.COM

SPIDER-MAN

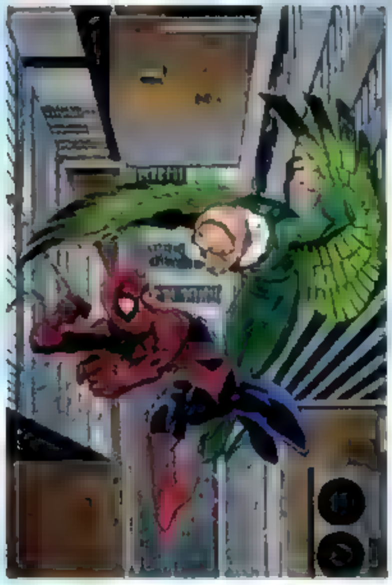
ON SALE FEBUARY 5

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN NO.15

TODD DEZAGO/MIKE WIERINGO/RICHARD CASE

CONCLUDING SPIDEY'S SAVAGE LAND SAGA! SPIDER-MAN AND KA-ZAR TEAM UP TO BATTLE THE UNLEASHED FORCES OF ROXXON FOR CONTROL OF THE SAVAGE LAND, THE DINO-FILLED LOST WORLD THAT TIME FORGOT! PLUS: S.H.I.E.L.D. MAKES THE SCENE, BUT WHOSE SIDE ARE THEY ON? DON'T MISS THIS FRENZIED FINALE, WHICH SETS UP NEXT MONTH'S KA-ZAR #1!

ON SALE FEBUARY 12



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NO.422

TOM DEFALCO/STEVE SKROCE/BUD LAROSA

THE MOST SHOCKING ELECTRO STORY EVER! WHAT MAKES THE SHOCK JOCK TICK AND WHAT BIZARRE DEAL DID HE MAKE WITH THE BLACK TARANTULA? PLUS: MORE DEADLY THAN DOCTOR OCTOPUS, PETER MUST LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE WITH AUNT ANNA!

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN NO.20

KURT BUSIEK/PAT OLLIFFE/AL WILLIAMSON

LOST IN A SEA OF TROUBLES, JASON IONELLO PLANS TO END HIS OWN LIFE! CAN AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE VULTURE AND THE SUBSEQUENT BATTLE WITH SPIDER-MAN, TURN HIM AROUND? LONG TIME READERS CAN GLEAN EXTRA INSIGHT INTO THE MIND OF A CLASSIC SPIDEY FOE AS THIS SPECIAL ISSUE IS NARRATED BY THAT CAGEY OLD BIRD! *(FANS OF WRITER KURT BUSIEK WILL WANT TO CHECK OUT THUNDERBOLTS #1!)*

ON SALE FEBUARY 19

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN NO.79

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN ROMITA JR./SCOTT HANNA

WHAT PART DOES HYDRA REALLY PLAY IN THE DEADLY GAME OF ORGANIZED CRIME? AND JUST HOW BADLY DO THEY WANT SPIDER-MAN DEAD? ALSO, MORE ON CAPTAIN ARTHUR STACY AND HIS SIMPLY STUNNING DAUGHTER!

SPIDER-MAN: DEAD MAN'S HAND

ROGER STERN/DARICK ROBERTSON/ JEROME MOORE

CARRION RISES FROM THE GRAVE IN THIS 48-PAGE ONE-SHOT! LEARN THE SECRETS BEHIND THIS LONG-TIME SPIDEY FOE AS HE ASCENDS UP THE SUPER VILLAIN LADDER TO BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE! FIRST, HE BROUGHT YOU SPIDER-MAN: HOBGOBLIN LIVES! NOW, VETERAN WRITER ROGER STERN CONTINUES TO ANSWER BURNING QUESTIONS WITH TALES THAT ROCK SPIDER-MAN'S WORLD!

ON SALE FEBUARY 26

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN NO.245

J.M. DEMATTEIS/LUKE ROSS/JOHN STANISCI

THE WAR BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN AND THE CHAMELEON ENDS WITH A SURPRISE TWIST! DR. KAFKA BEGINS A ROMANCE WITH A SUPPORTING CAST MEMBER! FLASH THOMPSON GETS TO BE A HERO! ALL THIS, PLUS THE FINAL ASSAULT OF THE HOPPING MAD KANGAROO!

VENOM: ON TRIAL NO.2 (OF 3)

LARRY HAMA/JOSH HOOD/DEREK FISHER

WITH MATT MURDOCK (A.K.A. DAREDEVIL) ACTING AS HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY, YOU'D THINK VENOM WOULD GET OFF SCOTT FREE, RIGHT? WRONG, BECAUSE THE PROSECUTION BRINGS IN A SURPRISE WITNESS, NONE OTHER THAN THE EVER AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! LOOKS LIKE VENOM WILL HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS AGAIN!

X-MEN

ON SALE FEBUARY 5

CABLE NO.42
TODD DEZAGO/RANDY GREEN/SCOTT HANNA

THE FALL OF XAVIER...THE RESURRECTION OF APOCALYPSE...THE ASSASSINATION OF GRAYDON CREED...THE SIGNS ARE POINTING TOWARD A CATASTROPHE THAT WILL LEAD TO CABLE'S HELLISH FUTURE! IN THE MIDST OF THESE DARK TIMES, AN ENIGMATIC FIGURE FROM NATE'S PAST APPEARS, SPEAKING OF THE "PROPHECY OF THE TWELVE"!

UNCANNY ORIGINS NO.8
STARRING NIGHTCRAWLER

BILL ROSEMANN/MARC CAMPOS

TELEPORTING FROM THE PAGES OF EXCALIBUR! IS NIGHTCRAWLER'S MOTHER REALLY MYSTIQUE? WHY DID KURT WAGNER KILL HIS OWN FOSTER BROTHER? THE TRUTH IS REVEALED IN THIS BARGAIN-PRICED CHAPTER OF THE OFFICIAL CANON OF MARVEL HISTORY! "THIS BOOK IS DRAWN IN THE CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE ANIMATED STYLE, AND THE DIALOGUE IS HIP AND FRESH. ADD THE 99-CENT COVER PRICE AND YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF ONE YOUNGER AUDIENCE FRIENDLY COMIC BOOK." (COMBO)

THE UNCANNY X-MEN NO.343
SCOTT LOBDELL/JOE MADUREIRA/TIM TOWNSEND

PART TWO OF A THREE-PART SCI-FI EPIC! AS THE X-MEN JOURNEY TO THE HOMEWORLD OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE, THEY REALIZE THEY MAY BE LILANDRA'S FINAL HOPE AGAINST THE DEADLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNCREATED AND THE PHALANX!

ON SALE FEBUARY 12

GENERATION X NO.26
SCOTT LOBDELL/CHRIS BACHALO

EN ROUTE TO THE SANCTUARY OF MUIR ISLE, THE RUNAWAY KIDS OF GEN X ARE SHOT DOWN OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, WHERE THEIR POWERS MEAN SQUAT!

PROFESSOR X & THE X-MEN NO.18
JORGE GONZALEZ/ANTHONY CASTRILLO

LAST ISSUE! IT'S THE FINAL FIGHT BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL X-MEN AND BOLIVER TRASK'S CAR CRUNCHING, BUTT-STOMPING, MUTANT HUNTING SENTINELS!

X-FACTOR NO.133
HOWARD MACKIE/JEFF MATSUDA/ART THIBERT

WHEN X-FACTOR HEADS UNDERGROUND, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT QUICKLY LEARNS THAT THEY NO LONGER HAVE A MUTANT MILITIA TO KICK AROUND! BUT IF MYSTIQUE AND FORGE ARE GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER WHY ARE SHARD AND WILDCHILD MOVING FARTHER APART? PLUS: THE LONG AWAITED REUNION OF THE MULTIPLE MAN AND STRONG GUY!

WOLVERINE ENCYCLOPEDIA NO.3

COVER BY CHAP YAEP AND DANNY MIKI

VARIOUS

THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE ULTIMATE SOURCE BOOK FOR THE X-MEN'S MOST MYSTERIOUS MEMBER! EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FERAL FAN-FAVORITE CAN BE FOUND IN THIS 48-PAGE FACT-FILLED EDITION! THE PLACES HE'S BEEN! THE DEEDS HE'S DONE! THE PEOPLE HE'S KNOWN, FOUGHT, LOVED AND KILLED! PLUS: AN ALL-NEW COVER BY CHAP YAEP (AVENGERS) AND DANNY MIKI (CURSE OF SPAWN)! IT'S A "MUST BUY" FOR EVERY LOGAN LOVER, BUB!

X-MEN: LOST TALES NO.1 OF 2

CHRIS CLAREMONT/JOHN BOLTON

REMEMBER THOSE REALLY COOL SUPPLEMENTAL STORIES BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND JOHN BOLTON THAT RAN IN THE BACK OF CLASSIC X-MEN? SO DO WE, THAT'S WHY WE'RE COLLECTING THE BEST OF THE RUN IN TWO, BI-WEEKLY 48-PAGE SPECIALS. IF YOU MISSED THESE TALES OF THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO CATCH UP.

ON SALE FEBUARY 19

EXCALIBUR NO.108

BEN RAAB/SALVADOR LARROCA/SCOTT KOBLISH

THE DRAGONS OF THE CRIMSON DAWN HAVE ARRIVED ON EARTH! WHAT IS THEIR MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION TO THE X-MEN'S PSYLOCKE, AND HOW DOES THIS LEAD INTO THE UPCOMING CRIMSON DAWN LIMITED SERIES? *(NOTE: THE HISTORY OF NIGHTCRAWLER, EXCALIBUR'S LEADER, IS REVEALED IN UNCANNY ORIGINS #8!)*

WHAT IF? NO.96

STARRING QUICKSILVER

CHRIS WOZNIAK/CHRIS WOZNIAK

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF MAGNETO'S FIRST DAUGHTER, ANYA, HADN'T DIED IN THE FIRE THAT SENT THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM DOWN HIS PATH OF EVIL? PERHAPS MAGNETO'S WIFE WOULD HAVE STAYED BY HIS SIDE, RAISING QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH WITH THEIR FATHER. POSSIBLY, ANYA WOULD BEGIN TO FEEL SHE WASN'T "SPECIAL" LIKE THE TWINS. AND JUST MAYBE SHE WOULD HAVE PLOTTED TO SET FATHER AGAINST SON!

X-MAN NO.26

TERRY KAVANAGH/ROGER CRUZ/BUD LAROSA

REELING FROM THE BATTLE IN X-MAN #25, NATE LIMPS TO MUIR ISLE. CAN MOIRA MACTAGGERT STOP X-MAN'S DETERIORATION BEFORE HIS OWN POWERS KILL HIM?

X-MEN NO.63

SCOTT LOBDELL/CARLOS PACHECO/ART THIBERT

THINGS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE WHEN SEBASTIAN SHAW, OF THE NEWLY REFORMED INNER CIRCLE, GAINS AN UNEXPECTED ALLY! AT STAKE IS A PRIZE THAT COULD AFFECT THE VERY SURVIVAL OF MUTANTKIND!

ON SALE FEBUARY 26

DEADPOOL NO.4

JOE KELLY/ED MCGUINNESS/NATHAN MASSENGILL

DEADPOOL IS DYING AND ONLY ONE MAN CAN CURE HIM! UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MAN IS ALSO THE MONSTER KNOWN AS THE HULK! CAN DEADPOOL CONVINCE MISTER TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME TO DO A GOOD DEED?

ON SALE FEBUARY 26 CONT.

JUGGERNAUT

JOE KELLY/DUNCAN ROULEAU

THE CRIMSON COLOSSUS STAMPEDES INTO HIS OWN ONE-SHOT! FRESH FROM HIS STARRING ROLE IN X-MEN UNLIMITED #12 & 13, THE JUGGERNAUT DECIDES IT'S TIME TO STOP RUNNING AND TAKE A STAND. SO WHAT DOES A GUY LIKE JUGGERNAUT DO TO SET UP A BASE OF OPERATIONS? HE TAKES OVER A WHOLE TOWN, OF COURSE! AND IF SPITE, AND HER BROTHER, D'SPAYRE, THINK HE'S GOING TO LET THEM INVADE HIS TURF, THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING! EXPECT LOTS OF BROKEN STUFF IN THIS 48-PAGE SPECIAL!

WOLVERINE NO.112

LARRY HAMA/ANTHONY WINN/DAN GREEN

WARNED BY THE MYSTERIOUS WARRIOR KNOWN AS STICK THAT HIS FRIENDS ARE IN DANGER, WOLVERINE MOVES FROM THE RELATIVE PEACE OF SALEM CENTER TO THE ABSOLUTE CHAOS THAT IS NEW YORK CITY! THERE, LOGAN WILL FIND A MENACE THAT IS THE VERY REASON ELEKTRA ENDEAVORED TO PUT HIM "BACK ON THE PATH".

(DON'T MISS THE FINAL INSTALLMENT OF THE WOLVERINE ENCYCLOPEDIA, ON SALE FEBRUARY 12TH!)

X-FORCE NO.65

JOHN FRANCIS MOORE/ADAM POLLINA/MARK MORALES

WARPATH FOLLOWS THE MYSTERIOUS RISQUE TO FLORIDA WITH X-FORCE HOT ON HIS TAIL, BUT WHAT HE FINDS COULD SHATTER HIS WORLD! MEANWHILE, SUNSPOT HAS A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE ASKANI KIND!

X-MEN: LOST TALES NO.2 OF 2

CHRIS CLAREMONT/JOHN BOLTON

COLLECTING THE BEST OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL STORIES BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND JOHN BOLTON THAT RAN IN THE BACK OF CLASSIC X-MEN.

DON'T FORGET MARVEL'S AWESOME SITE ON AMERICA ONLINE. KEYWORD: MARVEL TAKES YOU TO MARVEL'S OWN CYBERCOMIC AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

MEDIA

ON SALE FEBUARY 5

A CLUELESS® VALENTINE

PHOTO COVER

VARIOUS/SEAN TAGGART

AN ALL-NEW, WAY COOL ONE-SHOT FEATURING THE CHARACTERS OF CLUELESS! THAT'S RIGHT, ALL THOSE BETTYS AND BALDWINS OF THE HIT MOVIE AND THE NEW ABC SITCOM STAR IN THIS 48-PAGE SPECIAL! THIS MAGAZINE-SIZED EDITION FEATURES CHER, DIONNE, AMBER, TAI AND MURRY IN COMIC STORIES, PULL-OUT POSTERS AND PAPER DRESS-UP DOLLS! CHOCOLATE? FLOWERS? AS IF! LOOK FOR THE PHOTO COVER AND MAKE IT A CLUELESS VALENTINE!

ON SALE FEBUARY 19

DOCTOR WHO NO.249

VARIOUS

THE OFFICIAL, FULL-COLOR PHOTO MAGAZINE FEATURING INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES AND COMICS CELEBRATING THE MANY LIVES OF THE LEGENDARY DOCTOR WHO!

STAR TREK

ON SALE FEBUARY 5

STAR TREK®: VOYAGER™ NO.6

BEN RAAB/JESUS REDONDO/SERGIO MELIA

WHEN THE CREW COMES TO FISTICUFFS WITH EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE R & R! IT LOOKS LIKE THE PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED WHEN THE U.S.S. VOYAGER COMES UPON AN M-CLASS PLANET. BUT HOW CAN THIS VACATION SPOT EXIST IF ALL OF THE PLANETS IN THAT SYSTEM WERE DESTROYED LONG AGO? MAYBE IT CAN ALL BE EXPLAINED BY THE PLANET'S POPULATION OF GHOSTS!

ON SALE FEBUARY 12

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE® NO.6

HOWARD WEINSTEIN/TOM GRINDBERG/AL MILGROM

BEGINNING A TWO-PART SHOCKER! THE DEFIANT RISKS ALL TO SAVE SISKO FROM A DEATH SENTENCE HANDED DOWN BY THE ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE SHIRN. BUT WILL SABOTAGE CONDEMN THE CREW OF THE DEFIANT TO DEATH TOO?!

ON SALE FEBUARY 19

STAR TREK®: STARFLEET ACADEMY™ NO.5

CHRIS COOPER/CHRIS RENAUD/ANDY LANNING

THE CADETS THOUGHT THEIR FIRST RIDE ON A RUNABOUT WOULD BE A BLAST, BUT NOT LIKE THIS! NOW THEY'VE CRASHED ON A REMOTE PLANET WITH A SQUAD OF ARMED KLINGONS! IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, PAVA STEPS FORWARD TO CHALLENGE HER EX-BOYFRIEND WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE A MEMBER OF THAT KLINGON CONTINGENT TO A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

ON SALE FEBUARY 26

STAR TREK®: EARLY VOYAGES™ NO.3

DAN ABNETT & IAN EDGINTON/PATRICK ZIRCHER/GREG ADAMS

PIKE, SPOCK, CUSACK, BOYCE, NANO AND MOHINDAS THOUGHT THEY WERE BEAMING DOWN TO A PEACEFUL PARADE ON RIGEL 7. LOOKS LIKE THE WARLIKE KAYLAR HAVE OTHER PLANS! IT'S A CHILLING TURN OF EVENTS THAT ESTABLISHES CONTINUITY THAT LEADS INTO THE CLASSIC STAR TREK PILOT, "THE CAGE"!

LICENSED

ARTWATCH INTERNATIONAL, INC.

EL SPORTS WATCH

THE NEWEST AND MOST INNOVATIVE CHARACTER TIMEPIECE COLLECTION FEATURING THE MOST POPULAR MARVEL SUPER HEROES! THIS NEW WATCH COLLECTION FEATURES STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY COMBINED WITH SPORT STYLING. ALL WATCHES HAVE THE POPULAR ELECTRO-LUMINESCENT TECHNOLOGY, JAPANESE QUARTZ MOVEMENT, A SPORT VELCRO BAND, A THREE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY AND COLLECTIBLE PACKAGING. EACH TIMEPIECE ALSO COMES WITH AN ACID ETCHED CASE BACK THAT PROVIDES A DESCRIPTIVE HISTORY OF THE FEATURED MARVEL SUPER HERO!

MOVIE WATCH

THE MOVIE WATCH DEPICTS YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTERS AS YOU TURN THE TOP AND BOTTOM CROWNS OF THE TIMEPIECE. THIS INNOVATIVE WATCH INCORPORATES FILM STRIP TECHNOLOGY WITH A FASHIONABLE AND SPORTY STYLE. EACH WATCH HAS AN ANODIZED MATTE BLACK CASE, JAPANESE QUARTZ MOVEMENT, A SPORT VELCRO BACK OR LEATHER WEB STRAP, A THREE YEAR LIMITED WARANTY AND COLLECTIBLE PACKAGING. EACH TIMEPIECE ALSO COMES WITH AN ACID ETCH CASE BACK THAT PROVIDES A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FEATURED MARVEL SUPER HERO!

POCKET WATCH

THE HOTTEST NEW TIMEPIECE TREND IS THE ANTIQUE FINISHED POCKET WATCH! EACH WATCH HAS A HANDSOME ANTIQUE FINISHED CASE, AN ACTION CHARACTER DIAL, FINE QUALITY GENUINE LEATHER HAND-STITCHED FOB WITH BELT ATTACHMENT, JAPANESE QUARTZ MOVEMENT, ELECTRO-LUINESCENT TECHNOLOGY, A THREE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY AND A COLLECTIBLE GIFT PACKAGE.

COMIC IMAGES

T-SHIRTS

ALL SHIRTS ARE 100% COTTON WITH SCREEN PRINTING. L, XL AND XXL SIZES AVAILABLE. **GHOST RIDER REGULAR PRINT**
ART FROM GHOST RIDER #82 WITH NEON PRINT ON BLACK TEE.
SPIDER-MAN REGULAR PRINT
ART FROM SPIDER-MAN #75 ON WHITE TEE.
X-MEN REGULAR PRINT
ART FROM X-MEN #62 ON WHITE TEE.
X-MEN KIDSIZE
ART FROM X-MEN #62 IN M, L OR XL ON WHITE TEE
GAMBIT JUMBO PRINT
ART FROM X-MEN #52 ON WHITE TEE.
STORM JUMBO PRINT
ART FROM X-MEN #52 ON BLACK TEE.
SUB-MARINER JUMBO PRINT
ART FROM FANTASTIC FOUR #2 ON WHITE TEE.
X-MEN SUPER JUMBO PRINT
ART FROM X-MEN #54 ON GRAY TEE.
WOLVERINE & ELEKTRA SUPER JUMBO PRINT
ART FROM WOLVERINE #106 ON BLACK TEE.
GREEN GOBLIN & SPIDER-MAN MEGAPRINT
ART FROM SPIDER-MAN #75, IN XL OR XXL ONLY, ON GRAY OR BLACK TEE.

CREATIVE LICENSE

WOLVERINE DESK SET

AVAILABLE AGAIN! CREATIVE LICENSE PRESENTS A SHARP LOOKING DESK SET WITH FLAIR: THE GLOVED FIST OF WOLVERINE! THIS PORCELAIN PIECE FEATURES THE FERAL FAN-FAVORITE'S THREE ADAMANTIUM CLAWS, EACH OF WHICH IS ACTUALLY A BALL POINT PEN! PERFECT FOR WRITING THOSE MUTANT MISSIVES, THIS DESK SET IS ALSO A SURE-FIRE CONVERSATION STARTER!

- IT'S LIFESIZE, MEASURING 13" TALL
- MADE OF COLD CAST PORCELAIN WITH "CLAW" PENS OF FINE PEWTER
- FEATURING THREE BALL POINT PENS

GRAPHITTI DESIGNS

MARVELS SIGNED LIMITED EDITION HARDCOVER BOOK

AVAILABLE AGAIN WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! GRAPHITTI DESIGNS' DELUXE HARDCOVER EDITION COLLECTS ISSUES #0-4 OF KURT BUSIEK'S AND ALEX ROSS' AWARD-WINNING MARVELS LIMITED SERIES TOGETHER WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF NEW MATERIAL IN A SMYTH-SEWN BOUND PACKAGE. ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION IS AN EXCLUSIVE FULL-COLOR SIGNATURE PAGE AUTOGRAPHED BY BOTH BUSIEK AND ROSS, A NEW WRAPAROUND DUSTJACKET, ILLUSTRATED ENDPAPERS AND A RIBBON MARKER. OUT OF 8,500 COPIES OF THIS ORIGINAL LIMITED EDITION, ONLY 500 REMAIN.

PRICE STERN SLOAN

MARVEL SUPER HERO CRAZY HEX GAMES

SPIDER-MAN AND THE X-MEN NOW CHALLENGE PUZZLE FANS IN TWO NEW CRAZY HEX GAMES WITH A BRAND-NEW HEXAGONAL SHAPE! ACTION-PACKED, FULL-COLOR ART DEPICTS SPIDER-MAN AND THE X-MEN ON STURDY PUZLEPIECES.

SPIDER-MAN CRAZY HEXGAME

X-MEN CRAZY HEX GAME

ULTIMATE LINE-UP, INC.

MARVEL MASTERPIECE '96 ULTIMATE LINE-UP™ TRADING CARD WALL DISPLAY

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS FOR THE 2ND RELEASE IN THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES™ SERIES OF ULTIMATE LINE-UP™ TRADING CARD WALL DISPLAYS (PATENT PENDING). THIS AWESOME 23" X 34" POSTER, FEATURING CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE SILVER SURFER, HOLDS EIGHTEEN CARDS, THE PERFECT NUMBER FOR FLEER'S 1996 MARVEL MASTERPIECE CARD SET. MADE FROM HIGH QUALITY, DURABLE MATERIAL, THIS EYE-CATCHING MASTERPIECE IS PAINTED BY WORLD-RENOWNED FANTASY PAINTERS BORIS VALLEJO AND JULIE BELL!

WILDSTORM FINE ARTS

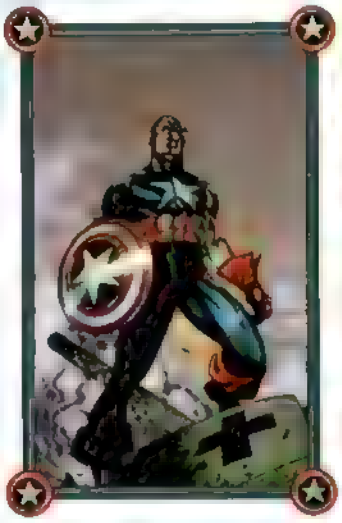
LIMITED EDITION IRIS PRINTS

SIGNED AND NUMBERED, THESE LIMITED EDITION IRIS PRINTS FEATURE BOTH ALL-NEW AND CLASSIC ILLUSTRATIONS. THIS STUNNING ARTWORK WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FROM MARVEL AND WILDSTORM. PRINTED ON HIGH QUALITY ARCHES WATER COLOR PAPER. IMAGE AREA: 10" X 15". TOTAL PRINT SIZE INCLUDING BORDER: 15" X 20". (NOTE: LIMITED TO 300 SIGNED AND NUMBERED UNITS.)

CAPTAIN AMERICA BY TRAVIS CHAREST

SILVER SURFER #1 BY JOHN BUSCEMA

**PLEASE NOTE: THAT LAST MONTH'S FANTASTIC FOUR AND SPIDER-MAN PRINTS ARE SIGNED BY JIM LEE AND TODD MCFARLANE!*



SHIP SHAPE

FEB. 5

CABLE NO. 42	FEB. 5 PG 58
A CLUELESS VALENTINE'	FEB. 5 PG 61
CODE OF HONOR NO. 3	FEB. 5 PG 54
DAREDEVIL NO. 362	FEB. 5 PG 54
FANTASTIC FOUR NO. 6	FEB. 5 PG 54
MARVEL VALENTINE'S	FEB. 5 PG 54
SENSATIONAL SPIDEY NO. 15	FEB. 5 PG 57
STAR TREK: VOYAGER NO. 6	FEB. 5 PG 61
UNCANNY ORIGINS NO. 8	FEB. 5 PG 58
UNCANNY X-MEN NO. 343	FEB. 5 PG 58

FEB. 12

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NO. 422	FEB. 12 PG 57
AVENGERS NO. 6	FEB. 12 PG 54
GENERATION X NO. 26	FEB. 12 PG 58
GHOST RIDER NO. 84	FEB. 12 PG 54
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